

**LEAGUE
CUP FINAL ISSUE**

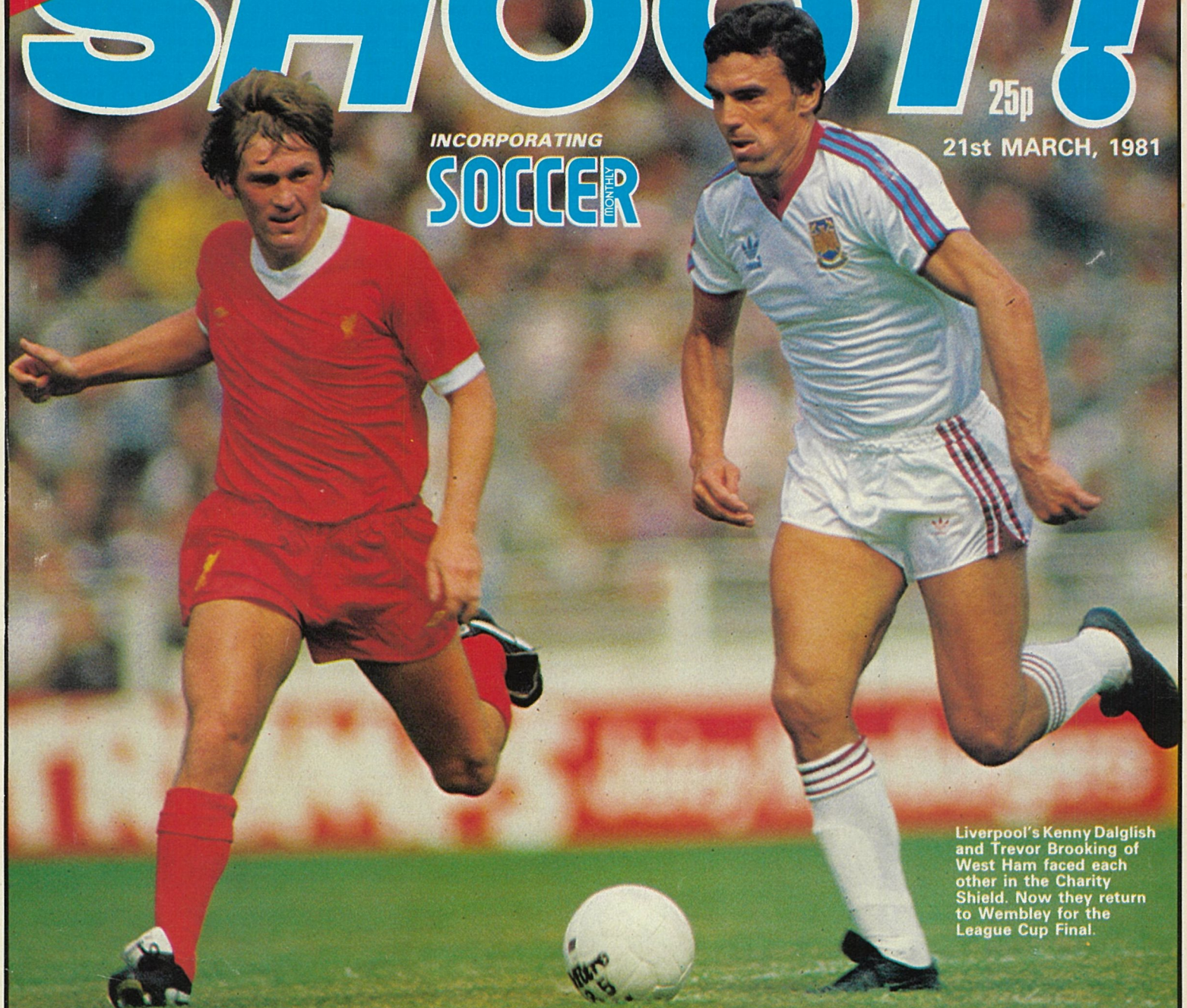
FOREST and CAMBRIDGE UTD. *team groups*

SHOOT!

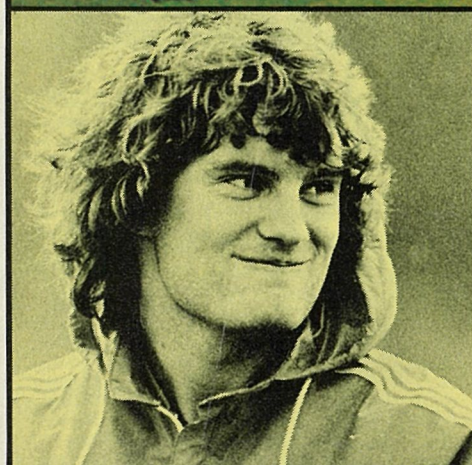
25p

21st MARCH, 1981

INCORPORATING
SOCCER MONTHLY



Liverpool's Kenny Dalglish and Trevor Brooking of West Ham faced each other in the Charity Shield. Now they return to Wembley for the League Cup Final.



**GLENN HODDLE IN
THE TEAM MONEY
COULDN'T BUY**

**SPECIAL REPORT ON
CELTIC AND RANGERS**



SHOOT! view!

B RITAIN's money troubles are biting deep into football — and it could reach crisis proportions by the start of next season.

The problem is likely to show in two specific areas. Clubs are likely to be forced to implement a wholesale clear-out of players at the end of the season, and in the summer the normal quota of young players taken on by clubs after leaving school is likely to be cut to a minimum.

Only the best young players will get fixed-up. Other players of lesser ability, whom clubs might have risked signing in easier times, will be allowed to drift into other occupations, many lost to the game forever.

The Professional Footballers' Association are concerned already about the growing number of professional footballers on transfer lists.

Only Manchester United, Liverpool, Arsenal, Everton and a few other elite clubs can afford to employ a small army of players. The remainder, such as Second Division Orient who operate on a squad of only 15, have cut their playing staffs to the bone.

Even those attached to clubs are not safe. The situation promises to be even graver when players find themselves cast on to the streets by managers hoping to shrink their wage commitments.

Accurate

The PFA and the Football League do not have accurate figures, but it is estimated that 20 per cent of the players could be affected.

About 500 players are already on offer with few bidders willing to risk their dwindling money resources.

Gordon Taylor, for the P.F.A., warns the problem could reach major proportions.

He is convinced that the failure by clubs to regulate the size of transfer fees is to blame because clubs are now trying desperately to balance their books.

An increasing number of players are seeking opportunities abroad. Mr Taylor is already putting players in touch with clubs in Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, the United States and New Zealand.

Many clubs are paying the price for mortgaging themselves to the hilt on major transfer deals. Ninety-nine per cent of clubs rolled about laughing when Norwich City said they wanted £2 million for Justin Fashanu.

Sadly, there is always someone willing to pay such a ridiculous sum even when times are hard.

The gleam of hope on the horizon is that a grain of common-sense will rise from the ashes of soccer's torment to guarantee a brighter future.

FIRST v Second! Liverpool's power play v West Ham's style! Two angles football writers have plugged hard in their previews to Saturday's date at Wembley between my club and the claret and blues from East London — and with which I heartily disagree.

The Hammers are one of the best teams in the country on the evidence of their exhilarating displays in the League alone, sweeping in unstoppable fashion to promotion, and there's no way we regard them as underdogs.

To suggest that all there is to

Brooking and Alan Devonshire, both England internationals, are key working parts.

Trevor is a deceptive player in more ways than one, giving the appearance of being disinterested and strolling through a game. But no one has a keener, more perceptive brain.

A 'keeper must beware of his speciality of striking a cross to the near post which curls away. It's important to commit yourself to going farther than you would normally to make an interception.

Trevor's critics — and I'm not one

for a long period, excitedly told me after a great game against Brighton in which he scored the equaliser: "I reckon I've now turned the corner."

Hammers' defence, previously their weak link, has been strengthened by Alvin Martin and Ray Stewart.

But the most important change of all is between the posts: Phil Parkes, the most expensive 'keeper in the world, and in my opinion, worth every penny. He instills confidence in the players around him, occasionally making the "impos-

'LIVERPOOL WILL OUTSHINE THEIR MIDFIELD'

Liverpool is the ability to sustain 90 minutes of high pressure and non-stop action is to ignore the fact that if it were not allied to skill of a high order then we could never have reached the position of being Britain's most successful club.

West Ham are now in a position to challenge us because they possess the same combination of qualities. At last their manager, John Lyall, has forged a team with style and pace!

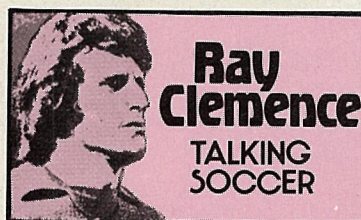
Competitive

The only occasion I've played against West Ham in the past two seasons was at Wembley in the Charity Shield last August. Although we won 1-0, no significance can be attached to the result as the match was very much an "exhibition" one, lacking a real competitive edge.

Of course, it's nice to capture the Charity Shield to take back to the showcase, but there are no tears in the losers' dressing-room.

In televised games The Hammers have impressed me in every department. David Cross and Paul Goddard complement each other well up front, with Goddard doing a lot of off-the-ball running to draw attention away from his partner, who is quick, cool and deadly accurate in the penalty-area.

They are supported by a midfield "engine room", in which Trevor



of them obviously — say he doesn't score enough goals for a midfielder. I'm sure his reply is to point to his F.A. Cup match-winner last May. And put home with his head, too!

Apparently he also scored two gems against Chelsea recently. The second even had Chelsea 'keeper Petar Borota applauding.

Trevor combines closely with Alan Devonshire, who has avoided becoming a one-season wonder by playing even better this term.

Alan not only scores goals, he gets great ones. Such as that I saw against Wrexham, when he beat several men on the run, before rounding the 'keeper and netting.

But superb as this pair are, we have two men in particular capable of outshining them on Saturday — Terry McDermott and Graeme Souness. Terry, down in the doldrums

ible" save.

This will be my sixth appearance at Wembley in a Final, but only the second with the League Cup as the prize.

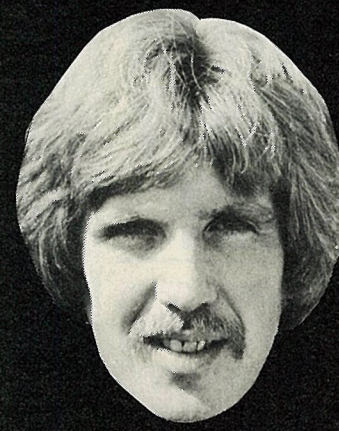
In 1978 we drew there with Nottingham Forest, only to lose the replay at Old Trafford by a disputed penalty.

We don't yet know which of the two dressing-rooms we'll be allocated, but whether it's the North or South one is immaterial. I have no Wembley superstitions, and I don't know of any held by other members of the Liverpool team, either.

For the first time we'll be staying at the hotel used by England, out in the country near Cockfosters.

Wembley never loses its glamour, no matter how many times you play there.

I'm also looking forward to completing a full set of domestic awards — a League Cup winner's medal at long last!



Phil's short cut to success

THE best-groomed player at Wembley this weekend will surely be West Ham goalkeeper Phil Parkes. And although Friday the 13th may be considered unlucky for some, Parkes will have a haircut... something that has become a good luck charm for the likeable Midlander recently.

He explains: "It didn't start out as a superstition, but it became a coincidence that whenever I had my hair cut we won a Cup-tie."

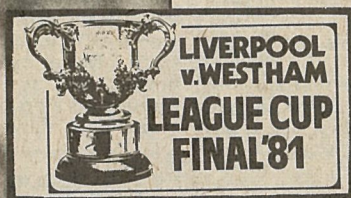
"If I did it before every game I'd end up bald! Even so, I've made a point of having a trim every three weeks or so and things have gone well. I'll definitely be paying the hairdresser — who isn't even a West Ham fan — a visit before the League Cup Final."

This will be Parkes' third appearance at Wembley in ten months. "I was with Queens Park Rangers for ten years and won nothing. Since joining West Ham everything has gone like a dream."

"If John Lyall had told me this when I signed I'd have laughed at him. In two years I've won an F.A. Cup winners' medal, almost certainly a Second Division winners' medal, and possibly medals in the League Cup and Cup-Winners' Cup. Unbelievable."

Parkes has unhappy memories of his last visit to Wembley, when his error enabled Liverpool to win the Charity Shield in August.

"Yes, that one was down to me. I didn't really have any preference who we met in the Final, Manchester City or



FOR the first time that many fans can remember, Liverpool are showing signs of wear and tear. Of being human, after all. They could still end the season as Champions of Europe and League Cup winners ... yet the first couple of months of 1981 saw some very un-Liverpool like displays from The Reds.

One man who hasn't been fooled is West Ham boss John Lyall. He says: "How anyone can say they're finished is beyond me. They started the season chasing four honours and they could still

win two. They are a side of outstanding quality and character.

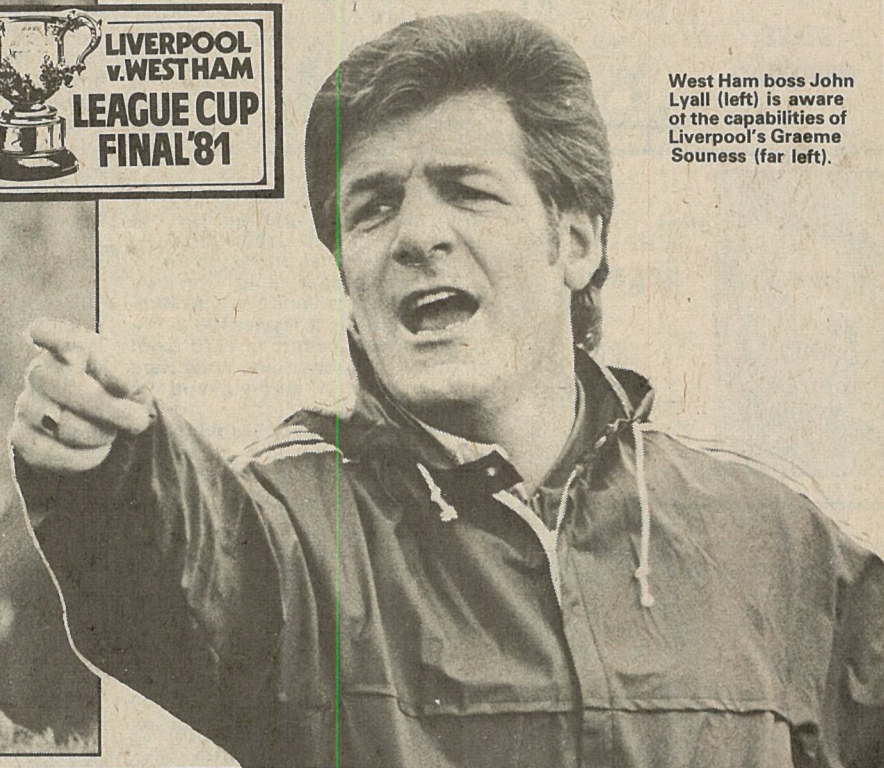
"Injuries have disrupted their team pattern, but they are a formidable side whatever the circumstances. They beat us in the Charity Shield and when I watched them recently I couldn't see much difference."

Lyall is aware that Wembley is the perfect setting for the likes of Dalglish, McDermott and Souness to turn it on. He also knows that if his own team plays to its potential West Ham can beat anyone.

Even Liverpool.

HAMMERS CAN BEAT ANYONE

West Ham boss John Lyall (left) is aware of the capabilities of Liverpool's Graeme Souness (far left).



Liverpool. I suppose playing Liverpool gives me a chance to put the record straight.

"I feel sorry for any goalkeeper who makes a mistake, even if he's on the opposing side. I know what it's like and it's even worse if it's on television."

Parkes, still the world's most expensive goalkeeper at £527,000, has been a major influence in The Hammers' rise over the past couple of seasons. In the past they have had a weakness at the back, but the arrival of Parkes and emergence of centre-half Alvin Martin has made West Ham as solid as just about any other team in the country.

"I wouldn't pick out any individuals. The whole team has worked hard for what we've achieved. John Lyall has some nice selection problems now, with players challenging for places."

Alan's treasured memory

IN four years Alan Devonshire went from being a part-timer with Isthmian League Southall to a full England international. Apart from England honours, he has an F.A. Cup winners' medal and on Sunday he is a racing certainty to be named in the Second Division team at the PFA awards.

Yet one memory Alan treasures more than most is seeing the West Ham fans as he emerged from the Wembley tunnel last May.

"All I could see was a mass of claret and blue. It was incredible. Our supporters are absolute fanatics. They think we're gods and we just have to repay them. When we won the Cup we were more pleased for them than anything else."

Devonshire's midfield partnership with Trevor Brooking could tip the scales at Wembley against Liverpool. In full flight, there are few better sights in football. Dev, as he's called at Upton Park, once prompted his former manager Ron Greenwood to say: "At times he appears to have the ball glued to his feet."

'Nerves'

After starring in that dramatic Semi-Final victory over Coventry City — "I like Semi-Finals, my nerves make me sharper" — Devonshire's first thoughts were for the unlucky Pat Holland.

"Patsy's a good friend of mine. I was disappointed for him when he missed

the Cup Final last year. Now it looks as if he'll miss out again. It's tragic."

Despite his superstar status, Devonshire is quiet and unassuming. He doesn't go in for flashy cars and is married to his childhood sweetheart Christina.

He remembers the days when he drove a fork-lift truck at the local Hoover factory, where his father, Les, still works.

The Devonshires moved into a smart new home last summer, just reward for his rise to fame.

He concludes: "It should be a good Final. Liverpool are still a great side, whatever anyone might say. We'll be the underdogs again and that suits us."

Indeed it does, because as the article on page five reveals, the underdog has a habit of coming up trumps in the League Cup Final.

3-2 FOR WEST HAM

say the Five Wise Men

WEST HAM are going to beat Liverpool in the Football League Cup Final at Wembley on March 14. Who says so? The Five Wise Men. John Richards (Wolves), Dennis Mortimer (Aston Villa), Joe Corrigan (Manchester City), Steve Perryman (Spurs) and John McGovern (Nottingham Forest), have all known the thrill of being Wembley winners in the League Cup Final. Here are their verdicts.



'Liverpool are the underdogs'

JOHN RICHARDS

JOHN Richards, Wolves' experienced striker, knows what it's like to win the League Cup at Wembley. He scored the winner against Manchester City in 1974 and won another tankard in last year's match against Nottingham Forest.

"We were underdogs on both occasions and won it, so the chances are it will go the same way," he says. "But I've talked to a lot of players about the match and get the feeling that on this occasion, the underdogs are likely to be

Liverpool."

John's views may shock half of Merseyside, but as he explains, West Ham are very much the team of the moment.

"I've only seen them on television, but I've been very impressed. Their strengths are in midfield with Trevor Brooking and Alan Devonshire. They are always likely to create chances.

"Liverpool have not had a good season by their standards and need a platform to ensure European soccer next season. Logically,

this will be their first and only chance, because they've still a long way to go in this season's European Cup."

John has already picked out his idea of the Wembley winner. "If Phil Thompson plays well he will make life difficult for Paul Goddard and David Cross. West Ham's central defenders Billy Bonds and Alvin Martin are so strong at present and will keep Kenny Dalglish quiet. I've a sneaking feeling the winner will come from a midfield player. But it will be a very close contest."

'Midfield so important'

STEVE PERRYMAN



"USUALLY, Liverpool's opponents in any competition have the odds against them. Now, there won't be so much difference. West Ham knocked us out of the League Cup and I saw them beat Coventry in the Semi-Final second leg — and was very impressed.

"But I must go for the First Division side's all-round ability. Liverpool are used to Finals and the big occasion.

"I think the game will be won and lost in midfield. Alan Devonshire, Trevor Brooking and Geoff

Pike are a formidable trio, but my old colleague Graeme Souness has come on a hundredfold.

"He was a good player in his brief stay at Spurs. Jack Charlton added solid professionalism at Middlesbrough and had considerable influence on him.

"It's an intriguing tie because West Ham are now a consistent side in all Cup competitions. They have always had the individual players, but as we all know, are more solid all-round these days. A great deal depends on whether

they show the attitude they displayed against us.

"Liverpool have been written off many times before, and it only seems to strengthen their resolve to prove their doubters wrong. It should be an attacking game, but I think Kenny Dalglish could just swing it Liverpool's way.

"The League Cup Final has certainly grown in stature since I won my two Tankards, in 1971 against Aston Villa and 1973 against Norwich."



'West Ham superior'

JOE CORRIGAN

JOE Corrigan has two good reasons for thinking West Ham will record yet another success when they meet Liverpool in the League Cup Final on March 14.

The goalkeeper, who won two League Cup tankards when Manchester City beat Newcastle 2-1 in 1976 and West Brom in 1970, said: "I think, at the moment, West Ham are superior in midfield and up front.

"I'm certain Trevor Brooking and Alan Devonshire will dominate there. Terry McDermott and Ray

Kennedy have not impressed me."

Then Corrigan, not overawed by Kenny Dalglish despite the goal the Scotsman scored against him in the Semi-Final leg at Anfield, added: "I know I'd rather face the Liverpool striking partnership of Dalglish and David Johnson than West Ham's Paul Goddard and David Cross.

"Cross has been having such a good season, while Goddard is a goalkeeper's nightmare. He's so fast, especially on the turn."

In the other departments, Corri-

gan rates the sides as equal. "Phil Parkes and Ray Clemence are consistent in goal, and both have solid defences.

"They both have experienced captains. Billy Bonds has led West Ham to two F.A. Cup successes and Phil Thompson, in my opinion, is at present the most effective player in the Liverpool side. But it's Hammers for me.

"There won't be much in it, though. It could well follow the recent trend of being decided by the odd goal."

'Still a great side'

JOHN MCGOVERN



"LIVERPOOL have never won the League Cup before and will be hungry for success. So many people are saying they are having a poor season, but that is only by their own standards.

"I have to go for them because Liverpool are still the side everyone tries to emulate. But Cup Finals are so unpredictable — the underdogs win 75 per cent of them.

"Liverpool's strength lies in their midfield — Terry McDermott, Graeme Souness, Ray Kennedy,

Sammy Lee. The reason why the team as a whole haven't been doing so well is because they haven't been at their best.

"I think the main reason for West Ham's success is that until they signed Phil Parkes they have never had a good 'keeper.

"Parkes is largely responsible for West Ham being the most confident team in the country at present.

"Trevor Brooking really is class. And some of the younger players are strong on talent.

"The way West Ham have been playing this season convinces me that they could be a force to reckon with in the First.

"It is impossible to predict a score, because one slip can alter the whole course of a game, as we found to our cost in last season's Final against Wolves. Even Forest's two wins in 1978 v. Liverpool and 1979 v. Southampton failed to soften the blow of defeat at Wembley."



'Liverpool lack urgency'

DENNIS MORTIMER

ASTON Villa, captained by Dennis Mortimer, have done as much as any team to convince many people that Liverpool's reign of supremacy is over.

And now Mortimer, along with Gordon Cowans the only first team survivors from Villa's League Cup Final triumph over Everton in 1977, has sprinkled salt on Liverpool's wounds by predicting a West Ham victory.

He says: "There is a lack of urgency at Liverpool at the moment, and West Ham are good

enough to exploit it.

"Liverpool's strength has always been going forward. So it is essential to try to disturb their rhythm by attacking them. The Hammers' natural instinct is to do just that.

"West Ham have experience in every department. Phil Parkes in goal, Billy Bonds inspires the whole team from defence, Trevor Brooking is as good as ever in midfield and David Cross is having a great season up front. Add to these some very talented youngsters, and you have a better team

than at least half those currently in the First Division.

"It will be West Ham's third match at Wembley in ten months, so they shouldn't suffer too many nerves. I reckon the main danger to them will be Kenny Dalglish. You can't afford to give him an inch.

"I anticipate an exciting game, because both are attacking teams with West Ham possibly just a little stronger. Final score? West Ham 3 Liverpool 2."

**LIVERPOOL
v. WEST HAM
LEAGUE CUP
FINAL '81**

THE Football League Cup comes of age this year, for it was 21 years ago that what was once England's most unwanted competition lurched into action.

Spurned by the big clubs, criticised for cluttering the fixture lists and received unenthusiastically by the public, the League Cup never looked likely to become the success it is today.

Several events gave the ailing competition a boost. The Final was awarded a Wembley venue from 1967, and in the same year the winners were offered a place in the following season's Fairs' Cup provided they were from the First Division.

Finals of the Football League Cup have tended either to be of stirring stuff or fairly mediocre affairs.

In 1967, Q.P.R. transformed a 0-2 deficit into a 3-2 victory against First Division West Brom and, two years later, two goals in extra-time



Rodney Marsh (No. 10) goes close in Q.P.R.'s dramatic victory in the 1967 Final.



The Cup nobody wanted

by Don Rogers gave Swindon victory over below-par Arsenal.

The first six Finals were played on a home-and-away aggregate basis. The Final of the 1960-61 tournament was held over until the Autumn of 1961 but it was worth waiting for, Aston Villa beating Second Division Rotherham 3-2 on aggregate.

If it seemed unusual to have a Second Division side contesting the inaugural Final, the next one was even more bizarre, Second Division Norwich easily beating Rochdale from the Fourth 4-0.

The following two years provided Birmingham and Leicester with their only major honours when they overcame Midland rivals, Aston Villa and Stoke respectively, and Leicester were again Finalists in 1965, but Chelsea

this time bettered them 3-2 on aggregate.

In 1966 West Brom handed out a 5-3 beating to West Ham but the Midlands were on the receiving end of that incredible 3-2 result against Q.P.R. 12 months later.

Leeds and Arsenal played out a drab 1968 Final, Terry Cooper notching the solitary score, then came Third Division Swindon's 3-1 drubbing of The Gunners.

W.B.A. appeared in their fourth Cup Final in five years when they crashed to Manchester City in 1970, while in 1971 Aston Villa, then in the Third Division, held Spurs until the last ten minutes when a couple of goals by Martin Chivers put Tottenham's name on the trophy for the first time. The following year, veteran George Eastham's winning goal gave

Stoke City their first winners' medals — 2-1 against Chelsea.

Spurs were back to regain the League Cup in 1973 with an uninspiring 1-0 win over Norwich, who went down by the same score to fellow Second Divisioners Aston Villa two years later.

Between these two Finals, Wolves' 2-1 victory over Manchester City was a little more lively.

Not to be outdone, City did what Aston Villa, Spurs and Norwich had achieved before them, played a second League Cup Final in three years (Arsenal, Leicester and W.B.A. had appeared in successive Finals). This time City beat Newcastle 2-1 with a spectacular winning goal — an overhead kick with his back to goal by Dennis Tueart.

In 1977 it took three matches for Villa to get the verdict over Everton. The following March a weakened Nottingham Forest first held Liverpool to 0-0 at Wembley, then beat The Reds 1-0 at Old Trafford with Robertson's penalty.

Nottingham Forest became the only side to retain the League Cup when they beat Southampton 3-2 at Wembley in 1979, but last March a tragic misunderstanding between Peter Shilton and David Needham, presented Wolves' Andy Gray with the only goal and foiled Forest's bid for a hat-trick of titles in this competition.

The Football League Cup enters its third decade in fine fettle, something which could hardly have been imagined in those far-off days of the 1960's.

LEAGUE CUP FINALISTS

	Winners	Runners-up	Finals
Aston Villa	3	2	5
Man. City	2	1	3
Nottm. Forest	2	1	3
Tottenham	2	0	2
Wolves	2	0	2
Norwich	1	2	3
W.B.A.	1	2	3
Chelsea	1	1	2
Leicester	1	1	2
Stoke	1	1	2
Birmingham	1	0	1
Leeds	1	0	1
Q.P.R.	1	0	1
Swindon	1	0	1
Everton	0	1	1
Liverpool	0	1	1
Newcastle	0	1	1
Rochdale	0	1	1
Rotherham	0	1	1
Southampton	0	1	1
West Ham	0	1	1
Arsenal	0	2	2



Dennis Tueart nets Manchester City's winning goal against Newcastle in spectacular fashion in the 1976 Final.

LIVERPOOL



4th ROUND. Beat Portsmouth 4-1 at home. Portsmouth striker Derek Showers is crowded out by the massed Liverpool defence (above).



2nd ROUND. Beat Bradford City 4-1 on agg. Graeme Souness is upended in the Bradford penalty-area for an unconverted spot kick (above).



QTR-FINAL. Beat Birmingham 3-1 at home. Kenny Dalglish nets Liverpool's first past City 'keeper Jeff Wealands.

3rd ROUND. Beat Swindon 5-0 at home. Kenny Dalglish nets Liverpool's second in a landslide victory (left).



**LIVERPOOL
v. WESTHAM
LEAGUE CUP
FINAL '81**

The route to this season's League Cup Final has been littered with drama. Here we highlight some of those memorable moments and take a round by round look at . . .

HOW THEY

2nd ROUND. Beat Burnley 6-0 on agg. Paul Goddard evades a tackle from Burnley skipper Martin Dobson (below).



3rd ROUND. Beat Charlton 2-1 away. David Cross scores the first of his two goals to sink Third Division neighbours Charlton at The Valley (right).



4th ROUND. Beat Barnsley 2-1 at home. Ray Stewart (left) heads clear from Barnsley dangerman Trevor Aylott at Upton Park (above).

SEMI-FINAL. Beat Man. City 2-1 on agg.
Dalglish again . . . this time scoring the
decisive goal in the second leg at Anfield.



REACHED WEMBLEY

QTR-FINAL. Beat Spurs 1-0
at home.
Tottenham 'keeper Barry
Daines looks on in dismay
after David Cross' decisive
goal (right).



SEMI-FINAL. Beat Coventry
4-3 on agg.
Jimmy Neighbour clinches a
thrilling tie with this late
winner (below).



Today's great new trainer! The Inter-Astra

The **Inter-Astra** is a great new soccer trainer that will make your practice perfect!

Its special features include:

1. Super black leather uppers
2. Special suede reinforced toe cap and heel
3. Multigrip wedge sole
4. Comfortable insole, padded collar and tongue.

Kick off in style with the Inter-Astra on your next training session! Available in sizes 2-12 from £8.49.

Or, you might choose the super-value **Inter-Mirage**, a stylish leather-look trainer with a tough rubber sole. In sizes 2-11 from only £6.99.

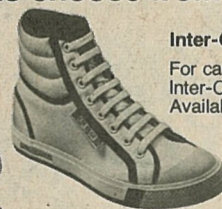
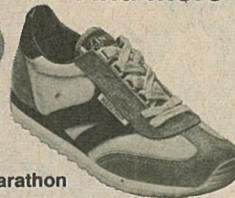


And more to choose from in the Inter range.



Inter-Marathon

When you're just out and about, the Inter-Marathon is ideal. Comfortable and hardwearing, you can choose from beige/brown, black/silver and white/blue.



Inter-College boot

For casual wear off the field, the Inter-College boot is the perfect choice. Available in white canvas with blue and red contrast.

You'll get a real kick out of Inter.

Inter-Footwear Ltd, Towerfield Road, Shoeburyness, Essex. Tel: 03708-6461 Telex: 995468.



'Cos aliens can't offer you sweets,



our sweets offer you aliens.

In every roll of Space Fings you'll find super pineapple, pear and kola sweets and a surprise.

Free space stickers. Send for a free wallchart and capture the aliens in the greatest space battle since Star Wars.



'CELTIC WANTED ME'



Tartan Talk
DEREK JOHNSTONE

FOOTBALLERS are often termed as being greedy and always on the look out for a quick buck. We've been labelled money grabbers and lacking in loyalty, so I think it's about time I put the record straight on that particular score.

Certainly I've met players who are very cash conscious, but then I've also met a lot of people outside the game who are equally interested in pulling in the pounds and pence.

I don't think it's fair to label everyone with the same tag. Footballers do a lot of charity work that goes unheralded, and there are other things which are time consuming

which go without financial reward.

You won't catch me grumbling, because football has given me a great standard of living and I wouldn't say I was short of a bob or two. At the same time I'm hardly in the millionaire bracket, but that certainly doesn't bother me.

I don't get envious when I see young players transferred for an awful lot of money while picking up a huge slice of cash from their cut.

Look at Clive Allen, for instance. If I am to believe all I read in the newspapers, he received something like £100,000 from his two £1 million moves to Arsenal and then Crystal Palace.

It's easy to think of what you could pick up in similar deals, but I'm happy where I am and I'm getting satisfaction from skippering such a famous club as Rangers, who have always been good to me since I walked through the doors at Ibrox

Rangers v Celtic, and Derek Johnstone (right) tests the team he nearly signed for.

as a raw 15-year-old.

I bet I'm more settled here than a lot of players who have been on the transfer money-go-round. I'm not knocking them — there are a lot of reasons for players being transferred — but I'm happy the way things have worked out for yours truly.

I admit there was a time not so long ago when I was unsettled and thought my future lay elsewhere. That was in '78, just before the Scottish international team went on the ill-fated trip to Argentina for the World Cup Finals.

There was talk of me joining Nottingham Forest and Arsenal. And then I was linked with Tampa Bay Rowdies. But when I came home I had a talk with John Greig, who had just taken over as manager from Jock Wallace, and he per-

suaded me that my future was with Rangers. Thanks, boss!

Of course, you must always look to the future in this game, for the playing side of it can end at any time. You must have financial security for your family, and Rangers have not been slow to look after their loyal club servants.

Mr Greig received a testimonial which put a smile on the bank manager's face and this year it is the turn of Colin Jackson to get a benefit match in his honour.

That proves conclusively that you do not have to dodge around from club to club in order to make money. Loyalty in football is rewarded, despite what some people may say.

It's funny when I think of all the wheeling and dealing that goes on in football when a transfer is in the air. I look back to the time I was 15 and just about every club in the country wanted me to sign.

Offer

My oldest brother handled everything! Celtic wanted me and I thought about going to Parkhead, but it was Rangers who eventually made me the offer I couldn't refuse.

I was told I would be given my chance in the first team as soon as I was good enough, irrespective of age. Rangers certainly kept that promise... I picked up my first major honour as a 16-year-old when I scored the only goal of the game against Celtic in the League Cup Final!

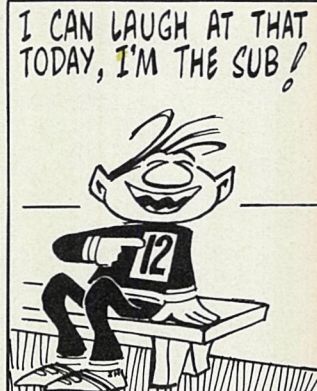
No, I'm not envious in any way of the players who are continually moving from one end of the country to another. That would be far too unsettling for me.

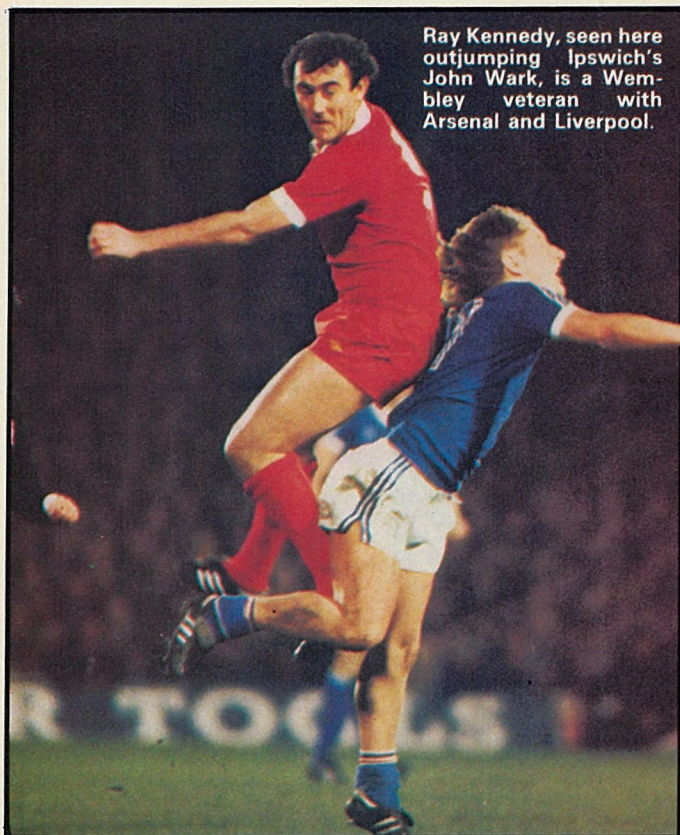
And, please remember, we are not all money grabbers. Take care... and I'll see you all in a fortnight.

Derek Johnstone

**TARTAN TALK FROM
CELTIC'S DANNY
McGRAIN NEXT WEEK**

NOBBY





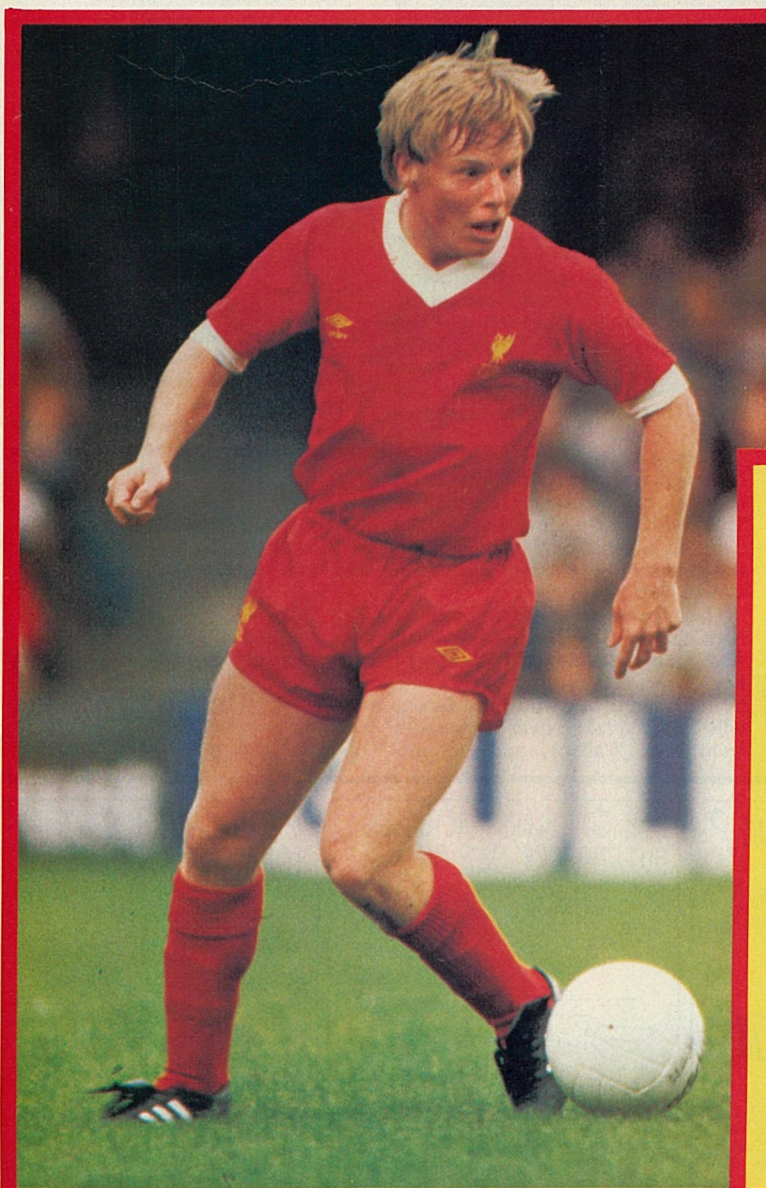
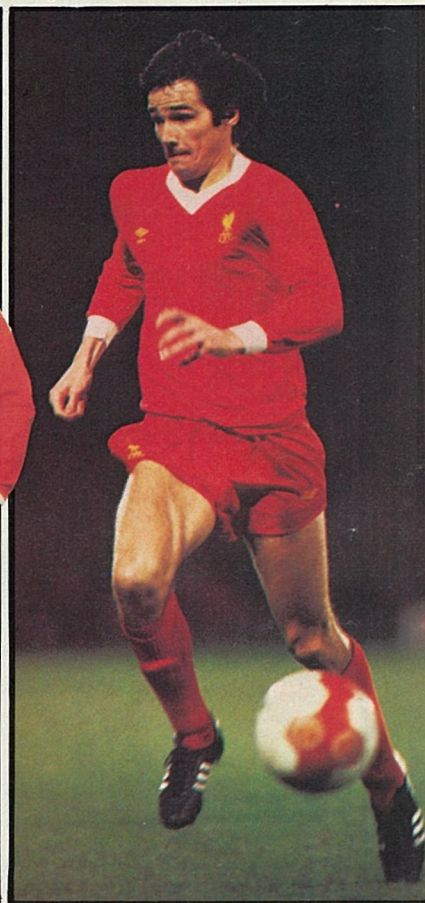
Ray Kennedy, seen here outjumping Ipswich's John Wark, is a Wembley veteran with Arsenal and Liverpool.

WEMBLEY

Wembley must seem like a second home to the players of Liverpool and West Ham — it's



Two of Liverpool's Scots — Kenny Dalglish and Alan Hansen.



Focus on SAMMY LEE

FULL NAME: Sammy Lee
BIRTHPLACE: Liverpool
BIRTHDATE: February 7, 1959
HEIGHT: 5ft 4ins
WEIGHT: 10st 4lbs
PREVIOUS CLUBS: None
MARRIED: No
CAR: Datsun Cherry
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: Daily Mail
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Gordon Cowans of Aston Villa
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: All the Liverpool reserves
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Liverpool reserves
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Ian Callaghan
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Squash, tennis
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They are all difficult
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: My debut against Leicester
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Losing to Everton in this season's F.A. Cup

FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Aston Villa
FAVOURITE FOOD: Fillet steak
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Watching James Cagney films/Rude people
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: Algarve, Portugal
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Relaxing
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart, Genesis, all Tamla Motown
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Drink and a meal with my girlfriend
BEST FRIEND: Too many to mention
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: My parents, everyone at Liverpool and my school teachers
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: England Youth caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? P.E. teacher
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? Rod Stewart

WONDERS

The Hammers' third visit in ten months. Liverpool . . ? Well, they seem to have a season ticket!

Britain's most expensive goalkeeper
West Ham's Phil Parkes.

The midfield skills of Alan Devonshire could be a feature of the Wembley Final.

Focus on

RAY STEWART

FULL NAME: Raymond Stewart
BIRTHPLACE: Stanley, Perthshire
BIRTHDATE: September 7, 1959
HEIGHT: 5ft 11ins
WEIGHT: 12 stone
PREVIOUS CLUBS: Dundee United
MARRIED: To Carolyn
CAR: Capri GT4
FAVOURITE NEWSPAPER: The Sun
FAVOURITE PLAYER: Kenny Dalglish
MOST PROMISING TEAM-MATE: Paul Allen
FAVOURITE OTHER TEAM: Dundee United
FOOTBALL HERO OF CHILDHOOD: Bobby Moncur (now Hearts' manager)
FAVOURITE OTHER SPORT: Golf
MOST DIFFICULT OPPONENT: They're all difficult
MOST MEMORABLE MATCH: The 1980 F.A. Cup Final
BIGGEST DISAPPOINTMENT: Missing out on promotion last season
FRIENDLIEST AWAY FANS: Sunderland
FAVOURITE FOOD + DRINK: Steak & chips, milk
MISCELLANEOUS LIKES AND DISLIKES: Driving/Losing & smoking
FAVOURITE HOLIDAY RESORT: France
FAVOURITE T.V. STAR, MALE AND FEMALE: Larry Hagman & Jaclyn Smith
FAVOURITE ACTIVITY ON DAY OFF: Playing golf
FAVOURITE SINGERS: Rod Stewart, Diana Ross and The Supremes
AFTER-MATCH ROUTINE: Go home for a meal
BEST FRIEND: Billy Kirkwood
BIGGEST INFLUENCE ON CAREER: Jim McLean and the Dundee Utd staff and John Lyall and the West Ham staff
INTERNATIONAL HONOURS: Scottish Schoolboys, Youth and Under 21 caps
PERSONAL AMBITION: To be happy and successful
IF NOT A PLAYER, WHAT JOB WOULD YOU DO? Joiner
WHICH PERSON IN THE WORLD WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO MEET? The Queen

Captain supreme Billy Bonds on top, as usual.

Ray Stewart

Great fans

WHO said that the age of generosity was dead?

At last month's Airdrie v Rangers Cup-tie, Rangers supporters donated £657 to the local Rotary Club, of which Airdrie secretary George Peat is chairman.

He said: "The club are really grateful to Rangers fans. Their generosity was absolutely overwhelming. That was the highest total we have ever raised at any collection at a game. It is superb."

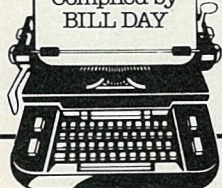
The money raised at the Scottish Cup-tie will go towards the handicapped.

FORMER Scotland international John Duncan has been transfer listed by Derby County. Born in Lochee, he signed from Spurs for £150,000.

He enjoyed a formidable goalscoring record at Derby before suffering an Achilles tendon injury.

NEWS DESK

Compiled by
BILL DAY



GOING...

AVI Cohen (left) will be leaving Liverpool at the end of the season.

The Israeli international is believed to have been told by the Liverpool manager Bob Paisley that he can leave when his contract expires.

He cost the League Champions £200,000 when he joined them from Maccabi Tel Aviv, 18 months ago, but he has never really adapted to the English First Division.

Cohen interested a number of West German sides at the time he joined Liverpool, including Bayern Munich, and it could be that he continues his career in the Bundesliga.

...STAYING

EVERTON'S former England striker Bob Latchford (right) wants to stay at Goodison Park.

He has recently been linked with a move to Leeds United, who were reported to be interested in signing the big striker for £200,000.

But Latchford is not interested. "I would talk to anybody who wants me purely out of courtesy," he says. "And, of course, with Gordon Lee's permission."

"But I'm not thinking about leaving Everton. My contract expires at the end of this season, and if they offer me acceptable terms, I'll be happy to sign again."



Statham's England threat

WEST Brom's outstanding left-back Derek Statham (right), back in action after injury, aims to launch himself on a chase for a place in the England side.

But Statham knows he faces a real battle. He and Kenny Sansom were fighting it out for the international number three shirt when Statham was hit by a series of injuries and lost out.

The latest blow was a niggling hamstring which gave him another frustrating spell on the sidelines.

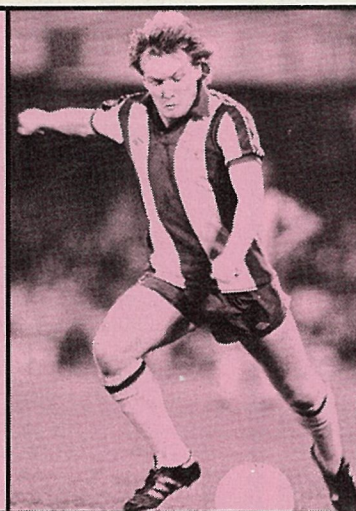
But now he is over it, and says: "If I can get back to a consistent level of performance I hope I'll come into the England reckoning."

"Fortunately, no one seems to have come along and overtaken me, so the rivalry seems still to be between Kenny Sansom and me. He has kept on doing his job well."

"Of course, at the present moment I am just happy to be back in the first team after all this time, but it is important to have targets to aim at and mine is an England place."

"All through a miserable three-month lay-off I kept it in my mind. And in that time I have never worked so hard in my life. I spent a lot of time lapping the track and exercising, so my all round fitness is as good as it has ever been."

"The problem was in kicking a ball. Now it is all over and I want as many games as possible to get really match fit and sharp."



Hibs' favourite

HIBS fans have voted goalkeeper Jim McArthur their Player of the Year for 1980. In a photo-finish result among the Hibs Supporters Association branches, Jim, who joined Hibs from Cowdenbeath, came out top with a lead of one vote over Gordon Rae.

Ian's 15 second debut

IAN HENDRY, a recent Hibernian signing from Cambridge United, doubtlessly anticipated an easy debut for his new club when travelling to bottom-of-the-League Berwick Rangers.

In fact, his first touch of the ball in a green and white jersey may well be his last for a while, as within 15 seconds of the game starting he was downed by a crunching tackle from Borderers' winger Peter Davidson. The unlucky debutant was then rushed to Berwick Infirmary with a suspected broken leg.

However, the game's balance was redressed shortly afterwards when home striker Eric Tait was also stretched off, this time with a couple of cracked ribs.

Kev's Irish links



KEVIN Keegan was a big hit when he visited Dublin to promote football boots.

With such an Irish surname, it was no surprise to learn that his grandparents were Irish. Kev said if somebody from the F.A. of Ireland had approached him while he was playing for Scunthorpe he would have jumped at the chance of playing for the Republic. But Bill Shankly got to him first.

Kevin was accompanied by his Southampton club-mate Mike Channon and naturally they looked at some Irish racehorses.

To commemorate his visit Kevin was presented with a special Welcome Cup, a fitting tribute to a great ambassador for the game.

STEWART Hamill, 21, the Leicester midfielder, was driving a Co-op grocery delivery van in Glasgow until the Filbert Street club offered him professional terms.

MEADOWBANK THISTLE manager Terry Christie has made his first signing since taking charge of the Edinburgh side. In an attempt to strengthen Thistle's defence he has signed full-back Ian Henderson (25) who was released by Berwick Rangers. Henderson previously played for Alloa Athletic.

Briefly...

● Luton Town may be forced to move from Kenilworth Road... because British Rail want to realign the Luton-Dunstable railway line. This line runs alongside the stadium and if the Bill promoted by British Rail in the Houses of Parliament goes through, the club would lose some of its ground. Town's chief executive

John Smith says: "We have spent £300,000 on improvements aimed at achieving a high standard of crowd safety. The club stands to lose the Kenilworth Suite, situated behind the main stand, and access from the rear of the stand to the Kenilworth Suite and the Century Club."

● The Drybrough's Northern League are not happy over the F.A. ban on part-time expansion. The Northern League are keen to form a Second Division for the 1982-83 season.

Officials are to press ahead with plans to find out if there are sufficient clubs to extend their membership.

● Struggling Shelbourne have sacked manager Pat Dunne. Former Eire international Freddie Strahan, now a director of the club, has taken over.

● Bohemians centre-half Jack McDonagh seems certain to leave the club. Several First Division clubs have watched this highly rated defender.

● Plymouth Argyle striker David Kemp is well on the way to achieving a feat so rare it has not been done for ten years. In the 1970-71 season Ted MacDougall netted 42 of Bournemouth's entire total of 81 goals... now Kemp may claim more than half his club's haul.

● Middlesbrough achieved a club record when three players — Dave Hodgson, Craig Johnston and Mark Proctor — were included in the England Under-21 squad against the Republic of Ireland, at Anfield.

Best since George Best

ANYONE saddled with the mantle of becoming "another George Best" has a lot to live up to, but Manchester United are confident they have a youngster capable of emulating the Irishman's great feats.

His name is Norman Whiteside, and like his mercurial predecessor he is from Belfast.

He caught the eye of United's chief scout across the Irish Sea, Bob Bishop, the man who gave George Best to British football. Bob reckons Norman, aged 15, is the best player he has seen since Best.

"Norman is a match-winner and entertainer. He is still at school in Belfast and travels to Manchester nearly every weekend. He also spends his school holidays at Old Trafford, and has already done well in the youth team."

United coach Harry Gregg confirms Bishop's view: "Norman is the most exciting player since George Best. He has amazing maturity for such a young boy, and I am already convinced that he will go on to become a consistent international striker for Northern Ireland."

Bishop's discoveries include Jimmy Nicholson, Sammy McLroy, Jimmy Nicholl and David McCreery.

MISERY

STRANRAER were heading for their first home win in four months when they were leading Brechin 1-0 with just 60 seconds left in a Scottish Second Division clash at Stair Park.

As they played out time, they sent on Jim Rodgers for the injured Ian Murphy. Rodgers had just got on to the pitch when he got in the way of a long-range shot — and the ball flew off his head into his own net to give Brechin a draw!

NIKON COMPETITION RESULT

FOR our first competition this year we asked you to study a photograph and answer three questions about it. The correct answers were: 1 — England's third goal; 2 — George Wood; 3 — John Wark.

Senders of the two nearest correct entries, with age taken into account, were Antony Beard, of Lichfield, and Noel Devine of Coventry. Each win a super Nikon EM camera.

The five runner-up prizes of Nikon camera bags were won by Grant Crocker, Wickford; Lee Fordham, Swansea; Mark Griffin, Buntingford; Edward Hall, Twickenham; and Ian Watson, Halthwhistle.



SHOOT'S NEW STAR SIGNING

ASTON VILLA and England Under-21 star Gary Shaw has joined SHOOT. The first of his regular columns begins next week when Gary talks about Villa's Championship challenge... the reasons behind their incredible rise and... the player who has helped him most. Here Gary and SHOOT Editor Peter Stewart complete the signing.

ALAN OAKES, player-manager of Chester, could soon join the ranks of soccer's 750 club.

The 38-year-old veteran has played 740 League games during his 21 years as a professional, 565 for Manchester City and 175 for Chester.

Only four other players have achieved this soccer milestone. They are Terry Paine (826), John Trollope (770), Jimmy Dickinson (764) and Roy Sproson (761).

Invade us

DERBY COUNTY are installing Space Invaders and pool tables in their Raynesway training ground in an effort to get the public and supporters involved in the club.

If the scheme works, plans for building a community centre at the Baseball Ground could get the go ahead.

Rags to riches

WELSH League side Abercynon Athletic are £1,500 better off this season — thanks to mighty Ipswich.

Abercynon were the first club to visit Gay Meadow after Shrewsbury had been drawn at home to the East Anglians in the F.A. Cup Fourth Round. Shrewsbury put tickets for the big match on sale at their ground when Abercynon played in a Welsh Cup tie — and a 3,000 crowd turned up. Normally, Shrewsbury v Abercynon would have drawn well under 1,000 and the Welsh side would have returned home with about £500. Instead, they collected a bumper cheque for £2,000 — not bad for a club with an average home gate of TEN.



MICK SMYTH of Athlone Town is the oldest goalkeeper in the League of Ireland. But 40-year-old Mick is still in good shape, and keeps himself warm with exercises like this one performed in a recent League game against his old club Shamrock Rovers.

IAN DOYLE, 21-year-old striker, caused a stir when he quit the League for non-League soccer.

Doyle, who joined Bristol City in December, 1978 for £4,000 from Barnstable, has moved to Western League Bideford.

Better behaved

SOUTHAMPTON's apprentices should be among the best behaved in the Football League. They have just completed a three-month course in refereeing devised by members of the Southampton Referee's Society.

Assistant manager John Mortimer said: "The idea behind the course was to give younger players a clear understanding of the laws of the game."

Southampton would now like to see other football clubs following their example in an attempt to rid football of its misconduct problem.

'I'm alive' insists Denis Smith

DENIS SMITH is alive and kicking (no pun intended). The Stoke City defender wishes to kill rumours of his retirement, despite breaking an arm earlier this month.

They came to a head when he played for Stoke City reserves against Nottingham Forest reserves.

"Are you managing the reserves now, Denis?" enquired John O'Hare, of Forest. "No, I'm playing," insisted Denis. "You can't be," said John, "I read in SHOOT that you'd quit." My error. Sorry Denis.

Ps. Denis is hoping to move into player-management. Any offers?

IS there a goalkeeper to match Roy Baines of Morton in ability and enthusiasm? He is 31, was on the books of Derby County and Hibs before Celtic and Morton.

Roy has been a Premier Division 'keeper since the Top Ten system was introduced. At one stage he did the 200 miles daily from his home in East Lothian to Cappielow, Greenock for training.

More recently, after establishing himself in business at Tranent, his football season mileage has been cut to 7,000 miles.

Derby-born Roy can never play for Scotland, but with four years each with Hibs and Celtic and over three years at Greenock behind him he does not lack for fans.

OFFICIALS of East Antrim outfit Larne knew what they were doing when they appointed star-finder Sammy Watson, as their new team-chief.

Included among talent-spotter Sammy's discoveries are current Irish internationals Martin O'Neill, Gerry Armstrong and Mal Donaghy.



● How many of these young players selected for Scotland's Under-16 squad will make the grade? Manager Andy Roxburgh is confident that several of them will go on to win full caps for Scotland.

Back row (left to right):— Roland Arnott (physio), Archie Knox (coach), Paul Nicholas (Celtic), James McKechnie (Nottingham Forest), Calum McReight (Hearts), Andrew Bruce (Rangers), Ronald Coyle (Celtic), Eric Fergusson (Rangers), David Galloway (School's FA), Ronald Sinclair (Nottingham Forest), Andy Roxburgh (manager).

Front row:— Gerald Doyle (Partick Thistle), Richard Murphy (St Mirren), John Robertson (Hearts), Alastair Dick (Schools' FA), Paul McStay (Celtic), David Rennie (Leicester City), Ian Rae (Hibs), John Sludden (Celtic).

Hull study the 3 C's

IT'S almost 12 months since Mike Smith surprised a great many people by leaving his comparatively safe seat as Welsh team manager to take over the reins at Hull City, then in desperate trouble at the foot of the Third Division.

The fact Smith decided to try his hand at club management was no surprise. His international success and shrewd tactical brain had made him the target of several big city clubs. But that he should choose to answer the call from Boothferry Park did raise a few eyebrows.

In a city that's built around the fishing industry, Mike Smith was certainly a catch to be proud of.

He managed to save the club from the big drop last season by a single point. But after some encouraging early-season signs, Smith finds his side once again floundering in the icy depths at the foot of the Division.

"I knew it wasn't going to be a picnic when I accepted the job," Mike admitted. "But in all honesty, I think it's been even tougher than I ever imagined.

"We faced a terrific uphill battle from the moment I arrived here. But everyone slogged it out together, and we managed to stay

up by the skin of our teeth.

"In that kind of situation, where every point is vital, there isn't much room to experiment and build.

"This season I hoped we'd have that kind of breathing space which would allow us to be constructive, with an eye to the future. But to earn ourselves that, I needed to have the same kind of fighting spirit from the players that they showed last season.

"But when we got hammered 7-0 by Lincoln over two-legs in the League Cup, the heads began to drop again. We collected a few injuries, too, and things went from bad to worse.

"Peter Taylor went on record as saying Nottingham Forest had a disastrous October. He should have viewed the month from my office!"

Smith, once a school master, knows all about the value of the 3 R's to his former pupils. Now the 3 C's have become an important part of his everyday teaching at Hull.

Character, Consistency and Confidence.

"Character in players is so important nowadays," said Smith. "When I was Welsh team-

manager, I knew that the character of my players was such that whoever I picked to play in my side would be willing to work until they dropped, because playing for their country meant so much to them.

"Unfortunately, that same strength of character has been difficult to instill in everyone here. Possibly, it's because they've taken so many knocks over the last few years the heart's gone out of them.

"Yet they've got to understand that things won't improve on their own. They've got to work hard, and go on working, until the tide turns.



Manager Mike Smith.

"It's no good doing it in fits and starts, or the effort only coming from one or two players at a time, either. Everyone has got to put in his 110 per cent in every game. That's the only way it'll be effective.

"And if we can get the character and consistency right, then the confidence will automatically follow."

Money for transfers is tight at Hull. Even so, Smith has brought in several new faces, while still managing to balance the books. He has spent somewhere in the region of £230,000, while outgoing transfers have totalled £300,000.

'Transition'

"I got Dale Roberts from Ipswich, but he's been badly dogged by injuries. And Nick Deacy, who we brought back from Holland, has found the transition from the softer style of Dutch football very difficult to make. Then there's Dennis Booth, who came to us from Watford. I feel particularly sorry for him, because he really hasn't had the opportunity to settle down in midfield because of all the injury problems around him.

"There are some signs of light at the end of the tunnel.

"I know far more about the players, and the job ahead, than I did a year ago.

"Wales' chances of qualifying for the World Cup Finals are looking good.

"But I don't have any regrets. I made my choice."

ADVERTISEMENT

Give your mates a mouthful.



Crazy Fings. Strawberry and cream, choc lime and soft-centred orange sweets with super free Crazy Stickers inside.

'THE FANS~A DANGER TO SCOTLAND'

MY SOCCER
WORLD

Gordon
McQueen



to find success at last.

For the past ten years they've blown hot and cold. Always threatening to win everything in sight, but failing to fulfil their promise and potential.

All Ipswich have to show for their enormous contribution to the game over the last decade is their F.A. Cup win in 1977-78.

Now they're on the brink of taking the League title away from Liverpool.

The Ipswich directors are to be congratulated for keeping faith with their manager Bobby Robson, and allowing him the time all bosses need to achieve stability, the right blend and consistency.

Alan Rough was outstanding for Scotland in Israel.

Ipswich have that now. Apart from consistency, what's Ipswich's secret? The combination of the Dutchmen Frans Thijssen and Arnold Muhren... the defensive partnership of Terry Butcher and Russell Osman and the forward punch of Paul Mariner, John Wark and Eric Gates.

These are the reasons for Ipswich's progress this season. So often in the past they missed many of the chances created. Now most of those golden opportunities are being put away by P.M. and co.

I suppose many fans outside Old Trafford would forecast an away win for Town. But despite United's overall form this season we're still formidable opponents at home.

Old Trafford empties this week as United's internationals report for duty with their respective countries.

Kevin Moran, Ashley Grimes and Paddy Roche will be with the Republic of Ireland squad for their

game against Belgium. Ray Wilkins and Stevie Coppell expect their England call-ups, while Northern Ireland's Sammy McIlroy and Jimmy Nicholl hope to play a Scotland team, which includes Joe Jordan and I, while Mickey Thomas should play for Wales.

Joe had to pull out of the squad for the recent match in Israel because of injury, but hopes to be included this time. Joe's been troubled by a lump on his knee.

At the moment I doubt if Jock Stein will consider me for the squad, even though despite my injury problems, I feel confident of doing a good job for him.

Obviously, this is a vital one for Scotland and Northern Ireland, both of whom are fighting it out for a second qualifying place.

Even though Scotland are currently level on points with Portugal at the top of Group Six they are favourites to win it.

Boost

Scotland's win in Israel wasn't convincing, but it did boost their points total to five in three World Cup-ties, two of them away from home.

That victory must have given Jock Stein a great deal of satisfaction and confidence, because the Israelis weren't the mugs we were led to believe.

As Jock Stein said, there's not much wrong with a team that wins a World Cup-tie away from home without playing well.

I must fancy Scotland to beat

Sammy McIlroy scores United's goal from the spot in the 1-1 draw at Ipswich this season.

Northern Ireland and maintain our home record in World Cup-ties. We've qualified for the last two Finals because of results at Hampden.

Jock Stein is picking the men in form. Players such as Steve Archibald, Kenny Burns, Alan Rough — what a game he had in Israel — and Alex McLeish.

The biggest danger to Scotland is their own fans. They will expect us to do well — and quickly. If Scotland haven't scored inside the first ten minutes they will get on the team's back.

Scottish supporters aren't exactly renowned for their patience.

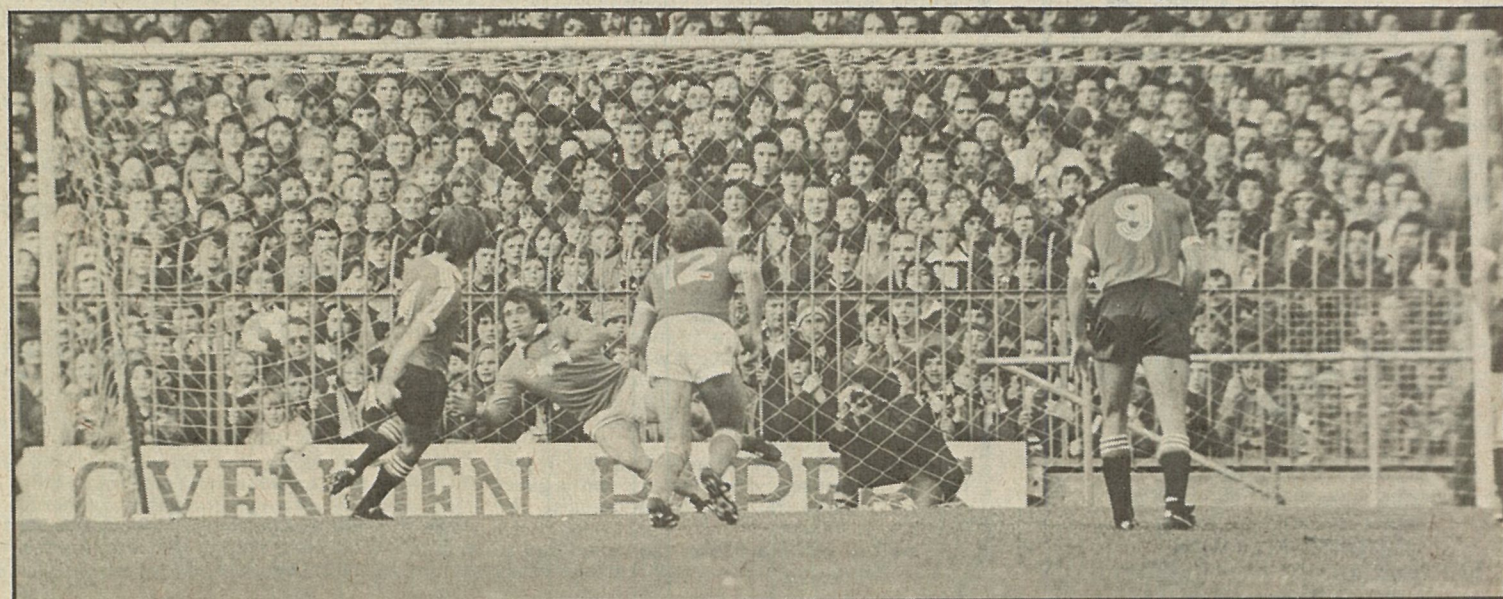
This creates an atmosphere that definitely affects the players at Hampden. They will try to hurry things up because the crowd demands it.

Jock Stein must instruct his team to be careful in their build-up... tell defenders not to go charging up field when the side is under pressure.

So be patient, you Scots fans. Give the boys a chance to settle down and take control.

That's it for this week. Next time I want to tell about three exciting young strikers coming through the Old Trafford ranks. See you then...

Gordon McQueen



INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

IN ENGLAND 1981
FOR YOUNG PLAYERS FROM ALL
PARTS OF THE UK & WORLD



13 yrs. old or over and would like to develop your skills with professionals and play soccer in England's Second City during your holidays? Our unique & exciting 1981 programme may surprise you! See photo for first clue! All skill levels; individuals, groups, teams catered for. To obtain your free illustrated brochure, write clearly, stating your name & address.

TO: SANDFIELD SPORTS, DEPT. S1, 3 BALMORAL DRIVE,
BRAUNSTONE, LEICESTER LE3 3AD, ENGLAND.

SOCCER HOLIDAYS

For young players (aged 8-18) of all abilities.

P.G.L. provides a full 5-day programme of activities.

Coaching sessions • Matches • Films • A visit to a league club ground • Coaching and question/answer time with a star player.

30 Residential courses at 7 excellent venues in England and Scotland.

Send for our FREE colour Soccer Brochure.

Telephone: Ross-on-Wye (0989) 3511/4211 or (043277) 535 (7 day 24 hour service) or write to:
P.G.L. Soccer Ltd,
907 Station Street,
Ross-on-Wye
Herefordshire HR9 7AH



FREE COMPLETE STAMP COLLECTORS OUTFIT

CONTAINS 14 ITEMS (usual price 40p)

1. "HOWDEN JUNIOR" stamp album.
2. Magnifier.
3. Swap Holder Packets.
4. Perforation Gauge.
5. Watermark Detector.
6. Stamp Tweezers.
7. Stamp Identifier.
8. Land Finder Map.
9. Packet of Hinges.
10. World's Rarest Stamp Facsimile.
11. School Stamp Club Leaflet.
12. Price List.
13. 100 Flag Stamps (stickers).
14. Packet of Stamps.

This outfit will be sent ABSOLUTELY FREE if you send us your name, address and 14p postage. We will also send a selection of SPECIAL APPROVALS which you can buy for HALF PRICE (£1), purchase just the stamps you want, or simply return the booklet undamaged, but first — ask your parents' advice.

PHILATELIC
SERVICES (Dept. SH1)
Eastrington, Goole,
North Humberside,
DN14 7QG



LET THEM
HEAR
YOU!

GIVE
SUPPORT
TO YOUR
TEAM!

£2.99
+40p p+p



Battery operated horn. Give your team the loudest support with the cheerleader.

Send cheque, cash or P.O. to

Hawford Products.

10 Highgate Sq. Birmingham 12
IN ASSC. WITH DIKTRON DEV. LTD.



Digweed's meteoric rise

not hide his disappointment, Perry was undoubtedly encouraged by his sudden arrival in the limelight.

Digweed — who lives just a stone's throw from Stamford Bridge — has always been an avid Chelsea supporter and is confident that he will be playing against his heroes in the First Division next season.

"Of course it will take time for me to adjust to the First Division, but it hasn't taken me long to settle with Brighton as they're such a young team. This is why there's such a terrific spirit in the club, which makes me feel that once we're established in the First Division we must be candidates for European football," Digweed predicted.

Moving to Brighton has also enabled Digweed to rejoin Brighton's assistant manager Ken Craggs, who was largely responsible for Digweed joining Fulham.

"My uncle, who played for Hounslow, is a great friend of Ken's and because of this I started training with Fulham when I was 13. Eventually Alec Stock saw me play and signed me up.

'Pulverised'

"It baffles me how Fulham have slipped so quickly," Digweed continued. "They've always played attacking football and should have pulverised some sides. Their problem has been that they haven't scored many goals which is, after all, what the game's about.

"It doesn't worry me that I've joined a struggling club, because there is so much difference between playing here and the reserves. While my immediate aim is to help Brighton maintain their place among the elite, my main aim is to play for England," Digweed stressed.

THE opportunity of playing First Division football as Brighton's first choice goalkeeper seven days after playing in front of a meagre 400 spectators for Fulham reserves left Perry Digweed with no doubts about leaving Craven Cottage.

"I'd asked for a move about a month before. I'd only played in a handful of first team games in five years and felt the time had come for me to establish myself somewhere.

"I was a little surprised to join a First Division club," Digweed admitted, "although I had read that Brighton were interested in me."

But even though Digweed conceded two goals against West Bromwich Albion on his First Division debut and his 16th League appearance, Alan Mullery felt his new 'keeper had justified the £150,000 gamble he had taken in plucking Digweed out of obscurity.

"Obviously we were after the best when it became clear that Graham Moseley was costing us vital points, but neither Peter Shilton nor Ray Clemence were available, which is why we had to look to the future," Mullery explained.

"OK, so the lad was at fault with the first goal he let in, but his overall debut convinced me more than ever that we've signed someone who's going to become a very good 'keeper," Mullery commented.

And as if to confirm Digweed's rapid arrival at the top, he was recently called into the England Under-21 squad for the game against the Republic of Ireland.

He had to withdraw from the squad due to League commitments, but although he could

GOAL-LINES

Send your letters to STEVE CARTER, GOAL-LINES, SHOOT!, IPC Magazines Ltd., King's Reach Tower, Stamford St., London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £10 for the Star Letter — £4 for every other published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. Please state which size: small, medium or large. When writing to us please mention the two features you liked best in the latest issue of SHOOT! All letters must be exclusive to SHOOT!

This week's Star Letter comes from Mark Duffy of Kirkcaldy, Blairgowrie in Perthshire, who wins our Special Prize of £10. He writes:

DRINKS BAN A SUCCESS

★ The drinks ban in Scotland seems to have come up trumps. During the Old Firm game between Celtic and Rangers recently there were only 176 arrests, with just 35 connected with alcohol.

The figure of 176 is low by their standards and must be heartening for the S.F.A.

It will also be heartening for supporters, knowing there will be relatively little violence. If it continues, perhaps people will actually bother to get out of their chairs and go to a match.

This would lead to increased takings and maybe the English F.A. would follow suit with a similar ban. Perhaps Britain then will start to boast the biggest crowds in the world again.

● I think 176 is still a dangerously high number of arrests and wouldn't encourage me to go to a game.

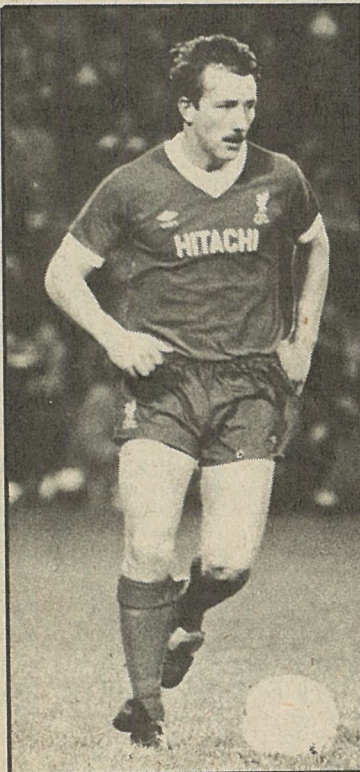
Hard for who?

RAY WILKINS wrote that it must be hard for Leicester, at the foot of the table, to motivate themselves.

Having seen Leicester beat United, he should have explained the problems of a middle of the table side motivating themselves. The only song the United fans sang was "Sexton Out."

GRAHAM WALKER, BRAUNSTONE.

● I think it's fair to say, though, that the 'silent majority' give United much better backing.



Unfair to Leeds

I WAS incensed by your comment in SHOOT about the Leeds United manager Allan Clarke (above).

You said: "He settled for deep defence — and accomplished little."

If you call beating Forest, Everton and W.B.A. and getting draws away to Liverpool, Ipswich and Aston Villa, the top three in the League, little, you must be very demanding.

How many other teams, excluding the top six, have done that?

Leeds couldn't afford to play attacking football and run the risk of conceding goals and defeat when Clarke took the manager's job over.

They were 21st in the table then and are now in a mid-table position and look safe from the threat of relegation.

I think Allan has put new hope into the minds of the players and fans by his positive attitude to success ("We will win something in the next three years.") And I wish him luck.

ANDREW RUNACRES, CATERHAM.

● If Leeds DO win something I'll be interested to see how they achieve their success. They were successful under Don Revie, but didn't win many fans.

Changes at Anfield

BOB PAISLEY must make changes to his ageing side if Liverpool are to continue to dominate. David Johnson and Terry McDermott are clearly past it, while Avi Cohen and Colin Irwin are not up to the required standard.

Jimmy Case (left), one of the best midfielders in the League, has been out of the side!

Paisley said recently that he would give the current first teamers another two years. I think he needs to rebuild now.

STEVEN COYLE, FORMBY.

● If Liverpool go two games without winning suddenly there's a crisis. Paisley has a good record of replacing players at the right time and he knows which players will be phased out next season.

Know the laws

DURING the recent extraordinary meeting of the Football League clubs, one of the items to receive less attention than others was the fact that apprentices had to take a course in the laws of the game.

In the past players have, in their ignorance, broken the laws of football, yet when they are cautioned by the referee they stare aghast and opened mouthed at him, claiming they have done nothing wrong.

If players have instilled in them at an early age the full rules and laws of Association Football they would be more apt to understand if the referee is forced to book them; just what it was that they had done wrong, and they would also be able to see the referee's point of view.

The so-called barrier between players and referees could be broken down, and there would be better communication between these two during the game.

RICHARD MOON, COLCHESTER.

● Fair point, but I also think referees need to work harder to understand the players they control.

Over the hill?

I BELIEVE that Kevin Keegan is now living on his reputation.

Keegan has not scored in England's last eight games; not an impressive record for a striker! The Southampton surge under Keegan — predicted by many last summer — has not materialised until recently, with 20-year-old Steve Moran leading the attack.

People will doubtless claim that Keegan has been plagued by injury this season, but most great players have.

Injuries, loss of form, age (Keegan has just turned 30) and his many commercial interests lead me to predict that by the winter of 1982 and 1983 Keegan will be forgotten.

I believe that Kevin Keegan is over the hill. It's time England realised the fact.

PETER JARDINE, GLASGOW.

● If Kevin has fallen slightly below his form of two years ago, he is still one of the most effective players in Britain and won't be forgotten by 1983. By then, I fancy, he will be ending his career in the NASL and will become a television presenter.

Pen-Pals

I WOULD like an English pen-pal (preferably a Man United supporter). I am a 14-year-old boy from Sweden who supports United.

JAN LOFGREN, TEGELSLAGAREGATON 39-10, 68100 KRISTINEHAMN, SWEDEN.

I WOULD like to correspond with Ipswich and Millwall fans. I am keen on collecting scarves and programmes.

FERRY VITTENBOSCH, NOORDER HAVEKADE 13c, 3039 RC ROTTERDAM, HOLLAND.

Let's forget Cruyff

HOW many more times is Johan Cruyff supposedly joining an English club? I've lost count of the clubs the Dutch star was about to sign for... Chelsea, Arsenal, Leicester... why don't we face reality and accept that players of his calibre are NEVER going to grace our game?

English soccer simply can't afford the wages these superstars command.

I don't blame chairmen for dreaming of snapping up Cruyff or Beckenbauer.

On the other hand, perhaps they should channel their energies towards something more realistic and let us enjoy the truly great players via television.

ANTHONY LYNTON, LONDON.

● Read World Wide next week for the real reason Cruyff will never play in England.

ASK THE EXPERT

Send your letters to: Ask the Expert, SHOOT! King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. U.K. readers receive £2 for every letter published. Overseas readers receive a special SHOOT T-shirt. When writing, please state size: small, medium or large. While every letter is read, our Expert regrets he cannot reply to individual letters personally.

Floodlights

When, and where, was the very first floodlit match played?

GRAHAM FARNSWORTH, NOTTINGHAM

● Surprising as it may seem, Graham, it took place more than 100 years ago!

The precise date was 14th October, 1878, and the game — played between two elevens drawn from local clubs — was at Bramall Lane, where modern Sheffield United play.

Although the lighting was extremely primitive by present-day standards — electricity itself was still very much a novelty to many folk outside London — this exhibition game attracted nearly 20,000 excited spectators... which was about four times as many as for that season's F.A. Cup Final at The Oval.

Relegation for United

I've got an old Manchester United programme from the closing stages of the 1962-63 season showing them in 19th place with only 29 points. Did they go down at the end?

JOHN HATCH, LANCASHIRE

● Well, John, at the finish of a disastrous League season they still couldn't do better than 19th (34pts) — though at least sparing themselves the dreaded drop.

But, in sharp contrast, they surprised everyone by reaching Wembley — beating Huddersfield, Villa, Chelsea, Coventry and Southampton en route.

And although Leicester (who finished fourth in the League) kicked-off firm favourites, United defied the odds to take the F.A. Cup 3-1.

SHORT PASSES

● Southampton have played in three F.A. Cup Finals — losing (while still a non-League club) 0-4 to Bury in 1900, and 1-2 to Sheffield United in 1902; and then beating Manchester United 1-0 in 1976.

(SIMON NEVILLE, Cowes)

● Plymouth's record League win is by 8-1 at home to Millwall on 16th January, 1932; their worst defeat is by 9-0 at Stoke on 17th December, 1960. Both were in the Second Division.

(DUNCAN ACHURCH, Australia)

● Bobby Robson has been Ipswich's manager since 1969.

(ISAAC CHUNGU, Zambia)

● Manchester United's worst-ever defeat was a 7-0 drubbing by Aston Villa, in Division One, on 27th December, 1930.

(GARETH SALTER, Devon)

Short Passes are replies to readers' letters.

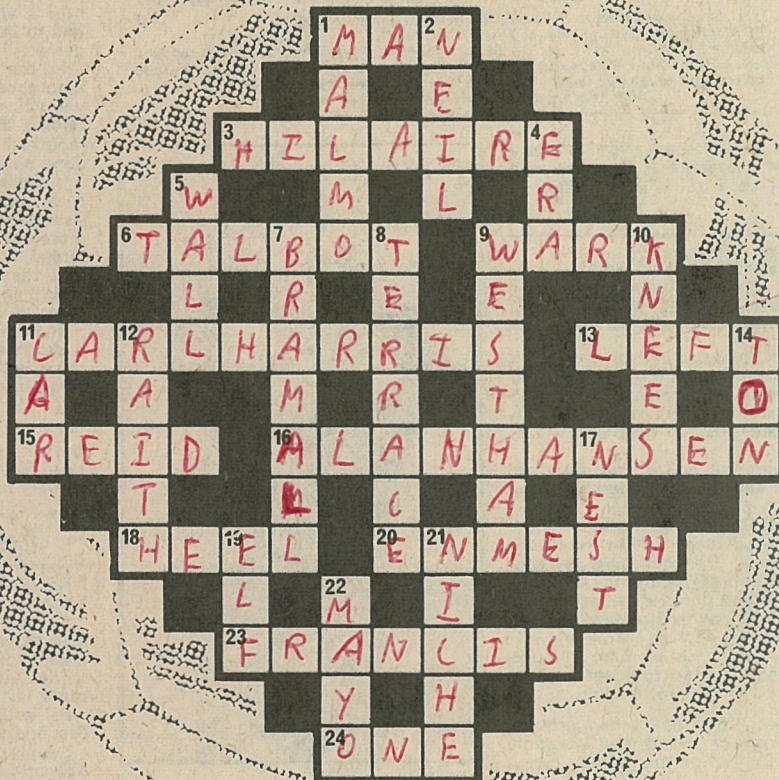
ON THE BALL CROSSWORD

ACROSS:

- (1) Paul ---ns, Notts County midfielder. (3)
 (3) Vince ---, England U-21 winger. (7)
 (6) Brian ---, Arsenal midfielder player. (6)
 (9) John ---, Ipswich Town midfielder player. (4)
 (11) Leeds United striker. (4 & 6)
 (13) Wing preferred by WBA's Peter Barnes. (4)
 (15) Peter ---, Bolton Wanderers' midfielder player. (4)
 (16) Liverpool defender. (4 & 6)
 (18) Site of the Achilles tendon. (4)
 (20) Catch up in the net. (6)
 (23) Surname of first "million pound player". (7)
 (24) Goalkeeper's number. (3)

DOWN:

- (1) Team Nottingham Forest beat in Munich in the 1978/79 European Cup Final. (5)
 (2) --- Whatmore; Bolton striker. (4)
 (4) Col---ine; Irish club. (3)
 (5) Often formed in front of a free-kick. (4)
 (7) --- Lane; ground of Sheffield United. (7)
 (8) Standing accommodation for the fans. (7)
 (9) Current F.A. Cup holders. (4 & 3)
 (10) Joints of the legs. (5)
 (11) Norwich play at ---row Road. (3)
 (12) --- Rovers. Scottish First Division club from Starks Park (5)
 (14) Heavy weight in Tottenham. (3)
 (17) Bird's home. (4)
 (19) Berwick play at Shi---ield Park. (3)
 (21) Take the initial letters of Ipswich, Chester, Norwich, Exeter and Halifax and make them into a word meaning "shallow recess". (5)
 (22) Joe ---, Orient striker. (4)



ANSWERS ON PAGE 38

IN THE NICHE
IN THE NICHE
NICHE



WILLIE YOUNG

Soccer CAMPS

Ever had the chance to be coached by an international footballer?



GRAHAM RIX

No, well here is the chance of a lifetime. A tremendous programme of activities starting on Friday and depart on Wednesday. The excitement of 5 days football. The thrill of being coached by international footballers. This course is unique because you will spend a great deal of your time with professionals.

N.B. Players will be available subject to injury and club commitments.

**You just cannot miss this chance!
Rush your reply NOW.**

Please reply to:
Graham RIX PROMOTIONS (DEPT. S2), 40 Greenway Close, Totteridge N20 8EN.

Name

Address

Age ☐

Enclose 14p stamp please.

Soccer Fans

TOWELLING
BATH ROBES
IN TEAM
COLOURS
100% COTTON

England
Scotland
Wales
Arsenal
Aston Villa
Birmingham
Brighton
Cardiff
Chelsea
Coventry
Crystal Palace
Everton
Ipswich
Leeds
Leicester
Liverpool
Man. City
Man. Utd.
Middlesbrough
Newcastle

Norwich
Nottm. Forest
Notts County
Portsmouth
Sheffield W.
Sheffield Utd.
Southampton
Spurs
Stoke C.
Sunderland
Swansea
W.B.A.
West Ham
Wolves
Wrexham
Aberdeen
Celtic
Glasgow R.
Hibernian

A FREE SEW-ON TEAM BADGE WITH EVERY PURCHASE

All robes subject to availability.

GROUP 1 £13.95

Height (approx. age)
48"-50" 7-8 yrs.
53"-55" 9-10 yrs.
58"-60" 11-12 yrs.

GROUP 2

£16.95 inc. VAT
Youths—Chest 34"
Small Mens—Chest 36/38"
Med. Mens—Chest 40/42"

When ordering please give team and size required.

Most teams in stock. Prompt despatch.

Money refunded if not completely satisfied.

Please send cheques/P.O.s. plus £1.00 p&p to:

(OUTSIDE U.K. PLUS £2.00 P&P)

"SOCCER ROBES"

c/o JACK & JILL SHOP (S.4)

3 The Parade, Market Square, Northampton NN1 2EA

Telephone (0604) 37103

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

SHOOT invited star columnist **Peter Shilton** to produce this week's Club Spotlight on Nottingham Forest. This is Peter's verdict...

WHOEVER says that you can't "blood" a number of youngsters together just can't be aware of what is happening at Nottingham Forest at the moment.

Since the turn of the year, it's been a cause for immense satisfaction to see three of our younger players emerge not only at the same time — but in the same area of the field!

In recent weeks we've had a midfield trio of Gary Mills, Colin Walsh and Stuart Gray and it's quite staggering to discover that the average age of the three is a mere 19.

But that's one of the major bonuses we've had at Forest in the most transitional period I have experienced in my time at the club.

There have been a lot of comings (Ian Wallace, Raimondo Ponte and Peter Ward) and goings (Garry Birtles, Martin O'Neill and Ian Bowyer) and generally speaking the club is being given a fresh new look.

And although Brian Clough and Peter Taylor have intimated that there will be new signings made in the near future, it's been like having new players when you consider that the young midfield

'It's all systems go after big shake-up'

trio and defender Bryn Gunn have been establishing themselves.

Gary Mills is the most experienced of the lot and he's only 19. And although he's been around the first team scene for two or three seasons, he's only now beginning to find a regular niche for himself on the right-side of midfield.

Colin Walsh is a player with a lot of flair and vision, and although he first got into the side as a replacement for John Robertson when he was injured, he's since settled down on the left of midfield.

Impression

And in between them has been Stuart Gray, a 20-year-old from Hull who is now making quite an impression in the role that John McGovern has filled.

Bryn Gunn, who has suddenly re-emerged this season, has been keeping Larry Lloyd and David Needham out of the side, which speaks volumes for his ability.

It all adds up to a very encouraging aspect of Forest life at the moment and I'm sure it's true that the youngsters are getting a lift from playing alongside each other.

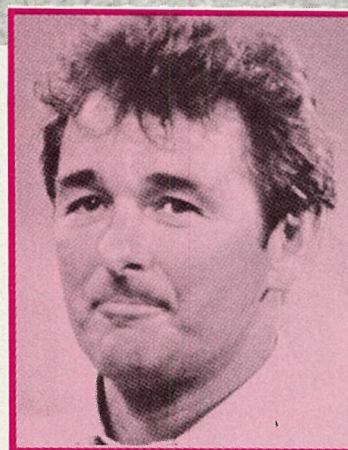
They are seeing what one another is achieving and it's giving

HONOURS

League Champions: 1978. Runners-up: 1967, 1979.
Second Div. Champions: 1907, 1922. Runners-up: 1957.
Third Div (South) Champions: 1951.
F.A. Cup winners: 1898, 1959.
League Cup: Winners: 1978, 1979. Runners-up: 1980.
European Cup winners: 1979, 1980.
Record last season: League — 5th.
F.A. Cup — Fourth Round. League Cup — Runners-up.



Stuart Gray (far left) and Gary Mills (above) have made a big impression in the Forest midfield after getting their chance from manager Brian Clough (left).



them the incentive to go and prove something to themselves and the management.

But the biggest tonic to us all this season was, of course, the return of Trevor Francis after being out of the game for seven months with Achilles tendon trouble.

He's come back possibly a better player than he was before his injury and to have a world class striker like him in your side has to make an enormous difference.

We got our share of goals in the first half of the season but there were occasions when we struggled for penetration and Trevor's incredibly successful return could not have been better timed.

It's certainly been a season

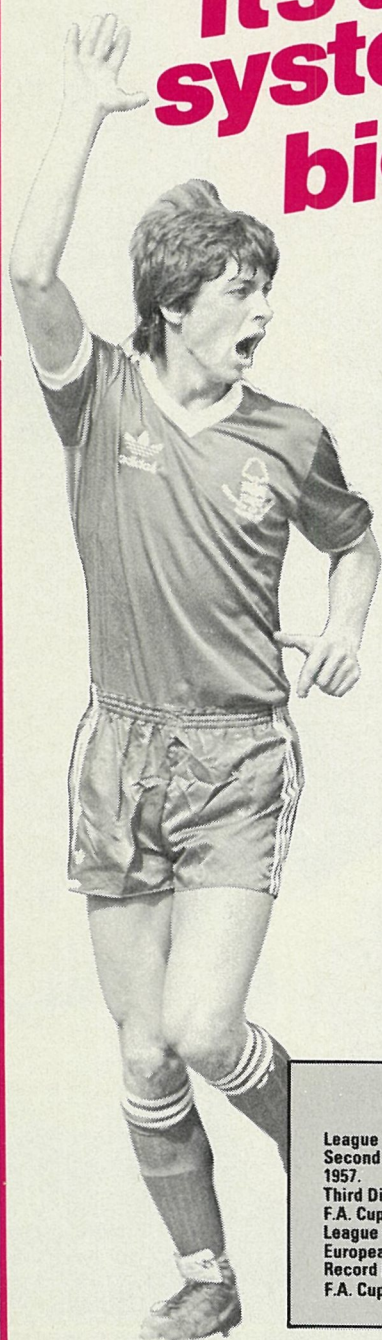
when openings have come on a wider scale for individuals, and I think it's all come about because of our relative lack of consistency in the League.

We won the European Cup, were runners-up in the League Cup and finished fifth in the League last season, but while that represents major success, our management judge everything by our position in the table.

And when results in the League wavered again this season, I think Brian Clough and Peter Taylor decided it was time to take stock of the situation and have something of a re-think.

The results of that might not be seen this season — even though we are still in line for a U.E.F.A. Cup spot — but you can be sure that we won't be out of the chase for honours for long.

Peter Shilton



FOREST

BACK ROW (left to right): Viv Anderson, Martin O'Neill, Larry Lloyd, Kenny Burns, Peter Shilton, Trevor Francis.
FRONT ROW: John Robertson, Ian Wallace, Frank Gray, Stuart Gray, Raimondo Ponte.





SHOOT!

KEVIN Ratcliffe is one of British football's finest prospects. For Everton and for Wales, this powerful 20-year-old defender is now taking one impressive stride after another — "and I'm determined I'm not going to let it slip," he says.

"He won't," forecasts Wales manager Mike England, who catapulted Ratcliffe into international football. When Joey Jones dropped out of the Welsh side through injury on the eve of the critical World Cup tie against Czechoslovakia, England immediately named Kevin at left-back . . . and Welsh football held its breath.

Not only was it a first cap for this Deeside youngster after just a handful of First Division appearances, but he was given the task of marking one of the most dangerous attacking players in world football, Marian Masny.

"Yet I knew that I wasn't taking a gamble," maintains England. "I'd watched Kevin playing for Everton in both the First Division and the Central League side; I'd also selected him for an Under-21 international in Holland. I knew that he had just the qualities I wanted for a vital job."

"When you look at Kevin, it is easy to recognise his strength; what it is more difficult to

appreciate is his speed. Yet, apart from winger Carl Harris, no player in the Wales squad can match him in sprints! That is why I was so certain of his capabilities.

"I've looked through the film of our win four times now and each time my opinion has been confirmed . . . he was faultless."

"My ambitions run on parallel lines: to keep my place for both Wales and Everton," responds the burly defender who celebrated his 20th birthday a week before facing Masny. "My feeling about every opponent I face is one of appreciating what he can do — and then making sure that he doesn't do it!"

"Every time that Masny tried something, I managed to counter him. Afterwards, I was relieved that he hadn't done anything to contribute towards a goal or score one himself. It was great to be on a winning side in my first international."

Everton manager Gordon Lee has also been encouraging him

every inch of the way in his short career, and Kevin is looking more and more confident in First Division football. "He is so calm that you think he has been a pro for years," Everton skipper Mick Lyons recently confided to Mike England.

Ratcliffe, in fact, has ups and downs like any other young player. "That cap came at just the right moment," he recalls. "I had been dropped from Everton's side after a run of half a dozen matches and it was back to the grindstone in the Central League. Then, suddenly, I was playing for Wales and it was a terrific boost."

"In many ways, it is hard to believe how quickly so much has happened for me. Mike England had me in the 22 for the British Championship last May after just two games for Everton. When a reporter I didn't know rang me at the time, I thought that it was one of my mates from Goodison having a joke at my expense."

When Kevin made his debut six

FAULTLESS RATCLIFFE

months later, it meant that he had gone 'through the card' for Wales — capped at Under-15, Under-18, Youth, Under-21 and then Senior level. The difference in the clash against the Czechs was that he was playing at left-back.

"All my other caps have been as a central defender and that is where I have played at lot of my games for Everton. I have to come to terms with the fact that John Bailey is having such a great season at left-back for Everton that my games are going to be limited, although I returned there recently when John was injured."

'Responsibilities'

"I'm lucky that I am a two footed player, although I prefer my left 'peg' to my right. My role in central defence changes with selection and I enjoy the different responsibilities."

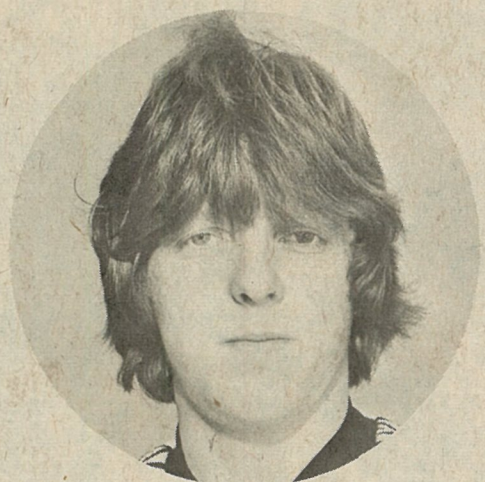
Kevin's all round ability means that he can operate either as an outright defender or as a sweeper, where his exceptional pace quickly closes down space. "He keeps such a cool head under pressure that you can see just what Mick Lyons means when he says about Kevin looking a professional of several years standing," acknowledges England.

There was certainly no sign of the shakes when he and Lyons faced the sharpest attack in the First Division — Ipswich's free scoring galaxy of internationals. Kevin, as a sweeper, calmly covered and checked the bursts of Paul Mariner, Alan Brazil, John Wark and company.



Ratcliffe proudly shows the shirt he wore on his international debut for Wales against Czechoslovakia.

'GOLDEN BOY'



NICOL

THE first time most people had heard of 19-year-old Steve Nicol was when Ayr United claimed they had turned down a Rangers' bid of £200,000 for the local-born defender.

In the wrangle that followed Rangers insisted that no offer had been made — but the one clear thing to emerge after the dust had settled was that Ayr boss Willie McLean wanted more than £200,000 for Nicol!

And McLean has since confirmed that as forcibly as he can. For the man who has coached or bossed half a dozen Scottish clubs in the last ten years believes he has found someone special.

He makes no secret of that as he talks about the teenager who works locally as a building labourer.

Says McLean: "You seem to spend your whole career in management looking around for players and picking up bits and pieces here and there. Then, suddenly, you strike gold! That's the way I feel about Steve.

'Outstanding'

"Steve has all the qualities that will make him a great player. He has outstanding ability. He is big and strong. He is quick and he has two good feet — there isn't much more you can look for in a defender.

"Honestly, people may talk about over-pricing him, but there is no way I see that as the case. Anyone who buys Steve Nicol is buying a future Scotland player and someone they will have in their first team for years to come.

"As far as I'm concerned he is the best investment around. If I was with a club who had bags of money to spend then I would be at Ayr to spend on Steve."

So far Nicol has made only a slight impact outside the First Division. His talents have been noticed there and Scotland boss Jock Stein thought enough of Nicol to push him into the Under-21 team which played Sweden in the European Championship.

The young Scots crashed to a

more experienced Swedish side — but Nicol's chance will come again.

While all the fuss went on about the Rangers interest, Troon-born Nicol went to work as usual, but admitted: "I couldn't quite believe it when I saw the size of the fee the newspapers were talking about.

"I haven't been in the first team for long so it came as a shock. All the lads at work were kidding me about it.

"The manager explained the whole thing to me afterwards and, honestly, I am happy to leave everything to the club. It's very nice to have your name linked with bigger clubs and to see the team you play for value you so highly, but all I want to do is to get on with playing.

"It's not going to worry me or, I hope, affect my game. The boss has told me he will keep me in touch with anything regarding transfers and that suits me. I'm happy just playing."

Says McLean: "We don't want to sell the player, especially if we see the chance of still getting promotion. But in the long run I suppose I have to accept that he will go.

"He is too good for me to hold on to in a part-time set up. The boy has ambitions — and I wouldn't stand in his way. How could I?"

McLean thinks of Nicol as another Ray Stewart, the full-back Dundee United sold to West Ham for £400,000. It was the Ayr manager's brother Jim who sold Stewart, who has blossomed with The Hammers.

Says the Somerset Park manager — "I have got to place Steve alongside Ray Stewart because there are obvious similarities.

"Steve can play in any of the back four positions and fit in perfectly — and we have even played him in midfield because his ability can stand that. That's the kind of thing Stewart does, too."

Nicol, meanwhile, carries on with his labouring job.

He trains two nights a week and then has his game at the weekend. Soon that will all be changed — because Nicol will move on and get the full time chance he wants.



YOU ARE THE REF

Compiled by CLIVE THOMAS

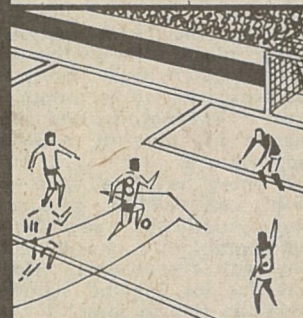
1

As a corner-kick is about to be taken you notice the flag is missing from the corner post. Can you allow play to continue?



2

An attacker runs towards goal with the ball, passing a team-mate who is in an offside position. Should you (a) award an indirect free-kick, or (b) take no action?



4

A player taking a free-kick appeals to you that an opponent is nearer than ten yards. Should you (a) take no action or (b) check on the opponent?



3

The captain asks your permission to present the match ball to a player who scored the winning goal. Is this permissible?



5

A player falls and traps the ball underneath his body with an arm. Should you stop play and (a) award a direct free-kick, or (b) restart the game with a drop ball?



ANSWERS

1. Yes. 2. Take no action (b). 3. No. 4. Check on the opponent (b). 5. Restart the game with a drop ball (b).
When refereeing the F.A. Cup derby between Everton and Liverpool, Phil Thompson complained that Peter Eastoe, the Everton player, was encroaching on Phil's free-kick. I looked over to my linesman John Goodrey who was satisfied. About two minutes later the same thing happened but this time Peter stopped Phil's kick. I immediately cautioned Peter. I told Phil he might have been right first time but the officials always give the benefit of the doubt to the player. 5. Restart the game with a drop ball (b).

STRIKER WHO TRAINS IN WELLIES!

PAUL Rideout laid the foundations to a successful soccer career when he scored on his debut for Third Division Swindon. But 48 hours later the 16-year-old striker was busy building different foundations — on a building site.

Rideout, rated the West's hottest young hope for the future, combines his life as an apprentice soccer player with another job as apprentice bricklayer. Every week he swoops his soccer boots for a pair of Wellingtons, and sloshes across the mud of a Swindon building site.

"I know the future I want — and that's very definitely as a professional footballer," said the boy who burst into the headlines for a day with a spectacular televised hat-trick for England schools at Wembley last summer.

"But there are all sorts of things that could go wrong. I could break a leg, or just not make the grade. So I think it is sensible to have another job to turn to.

"Most of the other apprentice footballers at Swindon go to college one day a week — but I much prefer being outdoors, and brick-

laying is a great skill.

"I spend all day carrying bricks about and mixing cement. If that doesn't strengthen me up I don't know what will. It's harder than any of the weight training we do at the club."

Rideout was chased by a cluster of clubs when he left school in the summer. In the end it was a straight choice between First Division Southampton and Third Division Swindon. He spent time training with both clubs before deciding to stay in Swindon.

"They made me feel far more welcome, and promised me I would be given a first team chance as soon as I was ready. They've stuck to their word. I'm sure if I had gone to Southampton I would have been lost as just another promising schoolboy.

"John Trollope has done a lot for me already. He was youth team manager when I joined the club, and since he took charge of the first team he's helped with extra work on my shooting. I hope with his help it will be a few years before I have to return to laying bricks for a living."

Rideout (white) in action for England Schoolboys against France at Wembley.



WEST HAM UNITED F.C.

HAMMERS SHOP

SEND S.A.E. FOR BRAND NEW UP TO DATE PRICE LIST

Including lots of new lines for 1981

To: HAMMERS SHOP WHUFC
BOLEYN GROUND, GREEN STREET,
UPTON PARK, LONDON E.13.

SUPPORT THE MODERN WAY! (& drown the opposition!)

CONTINENTAL-TYPE FLAGS app. 24" x 30"
in all team colours (inc. holder).....£1.00
"MUNICH" FOOTBALL HORN
Twin.....£2.80
AEROSOL FOG HORN complete.....£6.90
AEROSOL FOG HORN replacement canister.....£1.90
KLAPPER in main club colour or
bearing club name.....£1.00
CAPS polyes/cott in main club colour
printed with team name
(teams in 1st Div. season 76/7, 77/8, 78/9, 79/80,
80/81) £1.00

T-SHIRTS in main club colour printed with
team name (teams in 1st Div. season
76/7, 77/8, 78/9, 79/80, 80/81).....£2.70

(when ordering T-shirts state size 32, 34, 36, or 38)
ADD 30p p&p per item, Overseas & Eire 50p.

SPORTING AIDS

799 Manchester Road, Castleton, Rochdale, Lancs.

SOCCER WATCHES

THE IDEAL GIFT

DIGITAL WATCHES
IN YOUR TEAM COLOURS
INDIVIDUALLY DESIGNED
FOR EACH CLUB

Now Available:-
All four English
Divisions plus
Aberdeen,
Glasgow Celtic..

FULLY ADJUSTABLE
STRAP
QUARTZ L.C.D
5 FUNCTION
Month, Date
Hrs. Mins. Secs.
BACK LIGHT

12 MONTHS
GUARANTEE



**ONLY
£9.75**



INCLUDING VAT
& P&P WORLDWIDE

To order send Cheque or Postal Order or
simply Telephone and state Barclaycard
or Access Number. All orders now sent
1st Class Mail by return of post

VAYSHIRE LTD (Dept S20)
239 LONDON ROAD
STOKE-ON-TRENT
(TEL 0782 412634)

THIS IS AN OFFICIAL FOOTBALL
LEAGUE PROMOTION



**Provide
extra cash
for your
club**



**Gross
profits
of up to
£148**

PER SET



SEND FOR FREE BROCHURE

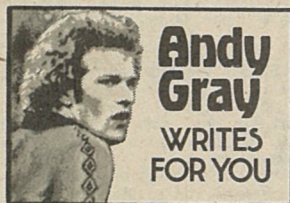
TO: CAROL SHUTE
JACEY FUNDRAISERS
Brunel Way Thetford Norfolk IP24 1HW
Telephone: Thetford 4365 (STD 0842)

'STEVE ARCHIBALD - I TOLD YOU SO!'

THERE'S every chance that Steve Archibald will end the season as the First Division's top scorer... and don't say I didn't warn you about the impact Spurs' £1m striker would make.

Just look at what I wrote about the former Aberdeen player in my column from the 9th August, 1980, issue, before he'd kicked a competitive ball for his new club.

Having given myself a pat on the back, I must confess that Steve has done better than I thought. I doubt



if even in his wildest dreams even Steve himself thought he may become the First Division's top marksman.

Spurs must be a striker's dream. The way they play is a tremendous help to their front runners, with the emphasis on attack and midfielders such as Glenn Hoddle and Ossie Ardiles supplying endless chances.

What's particularly impressed me about Steve is his ability to shoot on target. Very rarely do you see the opposing goalkeeper NOT have to make a save when Steve shoots.

I know Steve well. We room together on Scotland trips and I consider him a good pal. He's a quiet guy, very polite, doesn't drink or smoke and has the ideal temperament for a striker. Occasionally we see a flash of anger, but he keeps it under control.

Injury

A lot of people consider us rivals in the national team now. I prefer to see us as team-mates, even though Steve got the nod over me for the Israel game. I'd had only five games since coming back from a knee injury and Jock Stein said to me that he wasn't sure I had enough matches under my belt.

I wasn't really surprised about being left out, especially as Steve was doing so well for Spurs. I like to think that Steve and I could link up together for Scotland, although I appreciate the manager must find the right blend and balance.

When Steve and I have played together we've done well. In the second-half against Portugal in a European Championship game last year we were involved in two goals. I laid on his and Steve made the pass to me which led to me being fouled for a penalty.

Andy Gray, Steve Archibald, John Robertson, Kenny Dalglish...



perhaps somehow we can link up, but personal glory always comes secondary. Scotland beat Israel 1-0 and that pleased me immensely.

We now have five points from three games, including four away from home, and while I don't like to tempt fate, if we can beat Northern Ireland and Israel at Hampden in our next two ties I believe we'll be as good as in Spain.

The Scotland team isn't always pretty to watch these days, but our defence has been far more resolute. We've yet to concede a goal in our qualifying games and it helps the strikers; we know now that one goal can be enough to win the

match.

Incidentally, I liked what I saw of Israel. Security wasn't too tight, except at the airport, and we managed a quick visit to Jerusalem. While there we saw the Wailing Wall and, needless to say, someone remarked we had a whale of a time...

There were soldiers everywhere, both male and female, with an incredible amount thumbing lifts, although I wasn't sure where they were going. You can't get away from the military angle; we were chatting to an English guy who lives in Tel Aviv and he casually remarked that he thought Israel would invade

...I'll put my head on the block and say that Steve will be a surprise to many people. He has a lot of ability, he's a winner, has the right temperament and defenders will know they've been in a game. I particularly like the way Steve isn't afraid to take players on. I found in my first season with Villa that opponents didn't pay too much attention to me as I was still relatively unknown. Steve's big test will obviously come during his second season, but I think he has what it takes.

Lebanon tomorrow. Sure enough it happened!

It was warm when we arrived, but for most of the time it was cold and wet... so we Scots felt very much at home!

Now, we must carry on the good work against the Irish on March 25th. We should have a full house at Hampden for what will be a difficult match. The teams know each other so well there are no secrets... we won't be able to surprise one another and it'll be all down to whoever produces the goods on the night.

Glory

While Wolves are playing Norwich at Molineux, I predict Liverpool will narrowly beat West Ham in the League Cup Final. I think they'll just scrape home because The Reds are aware that it may just be their only chance of glory this season. With this in mind, I can't see them letting it slip away.

I have a lot of admiration for West Ham, who have had a tremendous season and have given the Second Division something to admire. My money's on Liverpool, though.

Wolves must beat Norwich, one of the teams battling against relegation, to stretch the gap between us. It may be my last chance to play against Justin Fashanu in a Norwich shirt as he could be on the move soon. He's had a sticky spell lately, but his record overall this season is good and he's done well to score regularly in a team that's had its backs to the wall.

Norwich boss Ken Brown insists he won't be selling Justin, but if they go down he'll probably have to let him go.

When he does go, I have a hunch that his valuation will be nearer £1m than £2m, and it may even be a player-exchange deal.

Join me again in a fortnight.

Andy Gray

LINE-UPS...RESULTS...SCORERS..

Tuesday, Feb 17
(Continued)

Scottish Cup

(Fourth Round replay)

CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (Miller)
KILMARNOCK (0) 1 (Bourke) AET 4,000
Clydebank: Kenny, Gervaise, McLaughlin, Fallon, Evans, Given, Harkins, Houston, Miller, McGorm, McCabe.
Kilmarnock: McCulloch, McLean, Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, McDicken, Hughes (McBride), Robertson, Bourke, Bryce, Cairney.

Wednesday, Feb 18

F.A. Cup

(Fifth Round replay)

EXETER (3) 4 (Hatch, Pearson, Roberts (P), Rogers (M))
NEWCASTLE (0) 0 17,668
Exeter: Bond, Rogers (M), Sparrow, Forbes, Roberts (L), Roberts (P), Pearson, Rogers (P), Kellow, Delve, Hatch.
Newcastle: Carr, Carney, Johnson, Shoulder, Boam, Halliday, Walker, Treweek, Clarke, Wharton (Brownlie), Waddle.

First Division

STOKE (0) 1 (Heath)
NOTTM. FOREST (1) 2 (Doyle (og), Walsh) 17,305
Stoke: Fox, Johnson, Hampton, Dodd, O'Callaghan, Doyle, Bracewell, Heath, Chapman, Ursem (Griffiths), Munro.
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray (F), Gray (S), Burns, Gunn, Mills, Wallace, Francis, Walsh (O'Neill), Robertson.

Third Division

READING (1) 1 (Heale)
NEWPORT (1) 1 (Lowndes) 3,876

Scottish Cup

(Fourth Round replay)

RANGERS (1) 3 (McAdam 2, Stevens)
ST. JOHNSTONE (0) 1 (McCoist) 23,000
Rangers: McCloy, Jardine, Dawson, Stevens, Jackson, Bett, Johnston, Miller, McAdam, Redford, Johnstone.
St. Johnstone: Tulloch, Mackay, McNaill, Fleming, Rutherford (Kilgour), Caldwell, Pelosi, McCoist, Docherty, Morton, Brogan.

Friday, Feb 20

First Division

BIRMINGHAM (0) 4 (Evans 2, Ainscow, Dillon)
NORWICH (0) 0 14,686



Forest's Gary Mills.

Birmingham: Wealands, Langan, Broadhurst, Dillon, Gallagher, Todd, Ainscow, Evans, Handsides, Worthington, Gemmill.
Norwich: Hansbury, Bond, Muzinic, McGuire, Mendham, Watson, Barham, Fashanu, Royle, Paddon, Goble.

Second Division

CARDIFF (0) 0
NOTTS COUNTY (0) 1 (Christie) 4,987
Cardiff: Healey, Jones, Gilbert, Grapes, Pontin, Thomas, Micallef, Kitchen, Stevens, Ronson, Buchanan.
Notts County: Avramovic, Benjamin, O'Brien, Kelly, Kilcline, Richards, McCulloch, Masson, Christie, Hunt (Harkouk), Hooks.

Fourth Division

DONCASTER (3) 3 (Russell, Nimmo, Dawson)
YORK (0) 2 (Russell (og), Eccles) 5,839

Saturday, February 21

First Division

ASTON VILLA (1) 2 (Withe 2)
CRYSTAL PALACE (0) 1 (Hinshelwood) 27,203
Aston Villa: Rimmer, Swain, Williams (Gibson), Evans, McNaught, Mortimer, Bremner, Shaw, Withe, Cowans, Morley.
Crystal Palace: Fry, Hinshelwood, Dare, Nicholas, Boyle, Banfield, Smillie, Brooks, Allen, Sealey, Hilaire.

BRIGHTON (2) 2 (Robinson, Smith)
LIVERPOOL (1) 2 (Johnson, McDermott) 23,275

Brighton: Digweed, Gregory (Ryan), Stevens, Clark, Foster, Lawrenson, Stille, Williams, Robinson, Smith, O'Sullivan.
Liverpool: Clemence, Neal, Cohen, Irwin, Kennedy (R), Case, Dalglish, Lee, Johnson, McDermott, Souness.

EVERTON (1) 3 (Ross, McMahon, Eastoe)
COVENTRY (0) 0 26,731

Everton: McDonagh, Gidman (Lodge), Ratcliffe, Wright, Lyons, Ross, McMahon, Eastoe, Varadi, Hartford, O'Keefe.
Coventry: Sealey, Thomas, Roberts, Jacobs, Dyson, Gillespie (Jones), Bannister, Daly, Thompson, English, Hunt.

IPSWICH (2) 3 (Wark, Gates, Beattie)
WOLVES (1) 1 (Gray) 24,213
Ipswich: Cooper, Mills, Butcher, McCall, Osman, Beattie, Wark, Muhren, Mariner, O'Callaghan, Gates.
Wolves: Bradshaw, Palmer, Parkin, Daniel (Bell), Berry, McAlle, Hibbitt, Atkinson, Gray, Richards, Eves.

LEEDS (0) 1 (Harris)
SUNDERLAND (0) 0 23,236
Leeds: Lukic, Greenhoff, Gray, Flynn, Hart, Cherry, Harris, Hird, Parlane, Stevenson, Graham.
Sunderland: Siddall, Whitworth, Hinnigan, Elliott, Hindmarch, Chisholm, Rowell (Brown), Bowyer, Hawley, Ritchie, Cummins.

MANCHESTER CITY (0) 1 (Mackenzie)
MANCHESTER UTD (0) 0 50,114
Man. City: Corrigan, Henry, McDonald, Reid, Power, Caton, Bennett, Gow, Mackenzie, Hutchison, Reeves.
Man. Utd: Bailey, Nicholl, Albiston, Duxbury (McGarvey), Moran, Buchan, Coppell, Wilkins, Birtles, Macari, McIlroy.

MIDDLESBROUGH (1) 3 (Jankovic 2 (1 pen), Cochrane)
STOKE (0) 1 (Maguire) 15,142
Middlesbrough: Platt, Nattrass, Bailey, Johnston, Ashcroft, McAndrew, Cochrane, Proctor, Hodgson, Jankovic, Armstrong.
Stoke: Fox, Johnson, Munro, Doyle (Thorley), Dodd, Heath, Bracewell, Ursem, Chapman, O'Callaghan, Maguire.

NOTTM. FOREST (2) 3 (O'Neill 2, Burns)
ARSENAL (1) 1 (Stapleton) 25,357
Nottm. Forest: Shilton, Anderson, Gray (F), Gray (S), Burns, Gunn, Mills, Wallace, Francis, O'Neill, Robertson.
Arsenal: Jennings, Hollins, Sansom, Talbot, O'Leary, Young, Gattin (Devine), Sunderland, Stapleton, McDermott, Rix.



WIN 101 STAMPS!
and a world of stamps on approval

WHICH FOUR COUNTRIES ARE THESE?

Just send us the right answers and you will receive 101 world-wide stamps free — and a fine selection of stamps on approval (buy what you like and return the rest). Remember to include your name, address (IN BLOCK CAPITALS) and stamp for postage — please tell your parents.

STERLING STAMP SERVICE

Dept. S11P, 169 Lyndhurst Road,
Worthing, West Sussex BN11 2DP.



TEAM TOWEL
39in x 18in
£3.99

WYVERN SPORTS

38 Blackfriars Square, Worcester.
Tel: 0905 20096.

'Mileta' SHOULDER BAG
10inx14inx4½in
£4.50

PLEASE SEND ME (post free) Outside U.K. Add £1.50 P&P

V-NECK CRESTED SWEATER	NUMBER	TEAM REQUIRED
£7.50 26"/28"		
30"/32"		
34"/36"		
£9.95 38"/40"		
42"/44"		
MASCOT TEDDY£5.99		
TEAM TOWEL.....£3.99		
SHOULDER BAG.....£4.50		

Name

Address.....

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £.....

I wish to pay by BARCLAYCARD/ACCESS No.....

Cardholders signature.....

WYVERN SPORTS

38 Blackfriars Square
Worcester

TEAMS AVAILABLE: Arsenal, Villa, Chelsea, Everton, England, Leeds, Ipswich, Liverpool, Man. Utd., Spurs, West Ham, W.B.A., Wolves.

BOOK NOW!

For your Trailblazers adventure holiday of a lifetime.

7 to 17 year olds will find our Isle-of-Man holidays full of sport, action and excitement. All our holidays are supervised by experienced teachers and expert sportsmen.



Send today for our FREE COLOUR BROCHURE to:- Ian Taylor Campamarena Holidays Ltd.
1a Fowler St., Fulwood, Preston, Lancs.
Or Telephone: Preston (0772) 716061

* 1980/81 PROGRAMMES *

Send Self Stamped Addressed Envelope OR 14p. Stamp for full list of current seasons programmes

INCLUDING ENGLISH, SCOTTISH, IRISH NON-LEAGUE, INTERNATIONALS ETC

1980/81 Bundles all our choice
50 Div 1 £4 + £1 towards postage
50 Scottish £4 + £1 towards postage
100 Div 1, 2, 3, 4 mixed £7 + £1.50 towards postage
Overseas add extra £1

PETER HOLTOM (code F94)
22 TINDALL CLOSE
HAROLD WOOD, ROMFORD
ESSEX RM3 0PB

LIVERPOOL F.C. OFFICIAL SOUVENIR SHOP

Send now for the LIVERPOOL FC OFFICIAL PRIZE ANNUAL 1981 - Price £3.75 incl. post and package or send a stamped addressed envelope for a full list of all our souvenirs.

Dept. S.R., Liverpool Souvenir Shop,
Anfield Road, Liverpool L4 0TH

Personal Callers Welcome



LINE-UPS... RESULTS...



Middlesbrough skipper Tony McAndrew.

SOUTHAMPTON (1) 2 (Golac, Moran)
WBA (1) 2 (Robson, Regis) 21,910
 Southampton: Wells, Golac, Holmes, Williams, Watson, Nicholl, Keegan (Hebbard), Channon, George, Moran, Baker.
 WBA: Godden, Batson, Statham, Moses, Wile, Bennett, Robson, Deehan, Regis, Owen, Barnes.

TOTTENHAM (1) 1 (Archibald)
LEICESTER (1) 2 (Lynex, Byrne) 26,126
 Tottenham: Daines, Hughton, Miller, Roberts, Lacy, Perryman, Ardies, Archibald, Galvin, Hoddle, Crooks (Brooke).
 Leicester: Wallington, Williams, Friar, Peake, May, O'Neill, Lynex, Melrose (Byrne), Young, Wilson, MacDonald.

Second Division

BLACKBURN (0) 1 (Garner)
WREXHAM (0) 1 (McNeil) 10,147
 Blackburn: Arnold, Branagan, Rathbone, Kendall, Keeley, Speight, Brotherston, Burke, Lowey, Busby, Parkes (Garner).
 Wrexham: Davies, Hill, Dwyer, Jones, Cegielski, Arkwright (Buxton), Fox, Sutton, McNeil, Vinter, Cartwright.

BRISTOL CITY (0) 0
QPR (0) 1 (Waddock) 10,988
 Bristol City: Moller, Stevens, Hay, Aitken, Marshall, Nicholls, Tainton, Fitzpatrick, Mabbutt, Mann (Pritchard), Whitehead.
 QPR: Burridge, Shanks, Gillard, Fenwick, Wicks, Hazell (Waddock), Langley, King, Stainrod, Currie, Silkman.

CHELSEA (0) 0
WATFORD (0) 1 (Poskett) 19,153
 Chelsea: Borota, Locke, Rofe, Bumstead (Walker), Droy, Chivers, Viljoen, Fillery, Lee, Mayes, Rhoades-Brown.
 Watford: Sherwood, Rice, Pritchett, Taylor, Sims, Bolton, Ward, Blissett, Armstrong, Jackett, Poskett.

DERBY (1) 1 (McFarland)
ORIENT (0) 1 (Margerrison) 15,709
 Derby: Jones, Emery, Buckley, Reid, McFarland (Osgood), Ramage, Powell (B), Hector, Biley, Swindlehurst, Wilson.
 Orient: Day, Fisher, Roffey, Taylor (T), Gray, Moores, Chiedoie, Bowles, Jennings, Margerrison, Taylor (P).

LUTON (0) 0
GRIMSBY (1) 2 (Cumming, Waters) 9,217
 Luton: Findlay, Stephens, Donaghy, Grealish, West, Price (White), Hill, Stein, Ingram, Aizlewood, Moss.
 Grimsby: Batch, Stone, Crombie, Waters, Wigginton, Moore, Broily, Whymark, Drinkell (Kilmore), Mitchell, Cumming.

NEWCASTLE 0
BRISTOL ROVERS 0 14,180
 Newcastle: Carr, Brownlie, Johnson, Carney, Boam, Halliday, Shoulder, Trewick, Harford, Wharton, Waddle.
 Bristol Rovers: McAllister, Jones, Cooper, McCaffrey, Hughes, Emmanuel, Williams (G), Barrowclough, Mabbutt, Randall (Lee), Williams (S).

SHEFFIELD WED (1) 2 (Sterland, Taylor)
SWANSEA (0) 0 17,887
 Sheff. Wed: Bolder, Blackhall, Grant (Pearson), Smith, Shirliff, Sterland, Mirocevic, Taylor, Leman, McCulloch, King.
 Swansea: Stewart, Robinson, Hadziabdic, Rushbury, Charles, Phillips, Giles (Stevenson), James (R), Curtis, James (L), Mahoney.

SHREWSBURY (3) 3 (Keay pen, Turner, Biggins)
PRESTON (0) 0 4,660
 Shrewsbury: Wardle, King, Leonard, Turner, Griffin, Keay, Tong, Atkins, McNally (Bates), Dungworth, Biggins.

Preston: Tunks, Westwell, Baxter, O'Riordan, McAteer, Coleman, Doyle (Bruce), Bell, Elliott, McGee, Naughton.

WEST HAM (2) 4 (Devonshire, Stewart 2 (1 pen), Goddard)
CAMBRIDGE (1) 2 (Reilly, Spriggs) 36,002
 West Ham: Parkes, Stewart, Lampard, Bonds, Martin, Devonshire, Neighbour, Goddard, Cross, Brooking, Pike.
 Cambridge: Key, Donaldson (O'Neill), Murray, Smith, Fallon, Finney, Streete, Spriggs, Reilly, Lyons, Gibbins.

Third Division

BARNLEY (0) 2 (McCarthy, Aylott)
READING (2) 3 (Earles, Dixon 2) 13,304

BLACKPOOL (0) 1 (Ashurst)
WALSALL (0) 0 3,985

CHARLTON (0) 1 (Walker)
EXETER (0) 0 7,245

CHESTER 0
COLCHESTER 0 1,778

CHESTERFIELD (1) 1 (Birch)
CARLISLE (0) 0 5,750

FULHAM (1) 3 (Davies, Doyle (og), Lock pen)
PORTSMOUTH (0) 0 9,921

HUDDERSFIELD (0) 0
SWINDON (2) 2 (Kamara 2) 10,655

HULL 0
BRENTFORD 0 4,535

MILLWALL (0) 2 (Bartley 2)
BURNLEY (0) 2 (Taylor, Hamilton) 4,691

OXFORD (1) 1 (Shotton)
GILLINGHAM (1) 1 (Lee) 3,641

PLYMOUTH (0) 3 (Johnson pen, Hodges, Sims)
NEWPORT (1) 2 (Tynan, Gwyther) 4,315

ROTHERHAM (0) 2 (Townner, Moore)
SHEFF. UTD (1) 1 (Trusson) 11,905

Fourth Division

ALDERSHOT (1) 2 (Garwood pen, Lucas)
DARLINGTON (0) 1 (Walsh) 2,046

CREWE (1) 2 (Palios, Nelson)
STOCKPORT (0) 0 2,598

HARTLEPOOL (0) 1 (Bird)
SOUTHEND (2) 3 (Spence 2, Gray) 3,751

PETERBOROUGH (1) 1 (Cooke)
TORQUAY (2) 3 (Bowker, Fell, Cox) 4,172

PORT VALE (0) 1 (Chamberlain (N))
BURY (2) 3 (Gore 2, Butler) 2,708

ROCHDALE 0
BOURNEMOUTH 0 1,846

SCUNTHORPE (0) 2 (O'Berg, Tilling)
LINCOLN (1) 2 (Hobson 2) 4,848

WIGAN (1) 2 (Quinn (M), Wright)
MANSFIELD (0) 0 4,032

WIMBLEDON (2) 3 (Galliers, Downes, Cork)
HALIFAX (0) 0 2,501

Scottish Premier

AIRDRIE 0
ABERDEEN 0 5,000
 Airdrie: Gardiner, Cairney, Anderson (G), McCluskey, Rodger, Walker, Anderson (N), Gordon, Flood, Russell (Marr), Clark.

Aberdeen: Leighton, Kennedy, McLeish, Miller, Rougvie, Watson (Angus), Simpson, Jarvie, Scanlon (Davison), Harrow, McGhee.

CELTIC (0) 3 (Nicholas 2, Aitken)
RANGERS (1) 1 (Johnstone) 52,800
 Celtic: Bonner, McGrain, Aitken, McAdam, Reid, Sullivan, Burns, Conroy, Provan, McGarvey, Nicholas.
 Rangers: McCloy, Miller (MacDonald), Jardine, Jackson, Dawson, Cooper (Russell), Bett, Redford, Johnstone, McAdam, Johnston.

DUNDEE UNITED (1) 1 (Hegarty)
MORTON (0) 0 4,886
 Dundee United: McAlpine, Holt, Hegarty, Narey, Philip, Kirkwood, Addison (Kopel), Bannon, Milne, Sturrock, Dodds.
 Morton: Baines, Wilkie, McLaughlin, Orr, Holmes, Rooney, Marr, Thomson (McNeil), Ritchie, Busby, Tolmie.

PARTICK (0) 1 (McDonald)
KILMARNOCK (1) 1 (Bourke) 1,600
 Partick: Rough, McKinnon, Whittaker, Campbell, Anderson, Watson, McDonald, Jardine, O'Hara, Doyle (Langley), Clark.
 Kilmarnock: McCulloch, Robertson (Maxwell), Cockburn, Clark, Armstrong, McDicken, Hughes (McBride), McLean, Bourke, Bryce, Cairney.

ST MIRREN (1) 2 (McDougall, Copland)
HEARTS (0) 1 (McShane) 3,412
 St Mirren: Thomson, Beckett, Copland, Fulton, Abercrombie, Richardson, Curran, McCormack, Logan, McDougall, Weir.
 Hearts: Brough, Hamilton, More, Liddell (F), Hamill, Bowman, Mackay, Kidd, Gibson, McShane, Liddell (G).

Scottish First

AYR (2) 4 (Reilly 2, Nicol, McCutcheon)
CLYDEBANK (0) 1 (Miller) 1,440

DUMBARTON (0) 1 (Donnelly)
BERWICK (1) 1 (Hamilton) 400

EAST STIRLING (0) 1 (Renwick)
FALKIRK (0) 1 (Hoggan) 2,000

HIBERNIAN (1) 4 (Brown (og), Jamieson 2, Connolly)
HAMILTON (0) 0 4,000

MOTHERWELL (2) 4 (Clelland 2, Irvine, McLaughlin pen)
DUNDEE (1) 1 (Williamson) 2,072

ST JOHNSTONE (0) 4 (Pelosi 2, McCoist, Docherty)
DUNFERMLINE (1) 1 (McNaughton) 2,282

STIRLING (0) 0
RAITH (0) 1 (Forsyth) 1,124

Scottish Second

ALLOA (0) (Holt pen)
MONTROSE (0) 0 510

ARBROATH (1) 1 (Harley)
STRANRAER (0) 0 420

BRECHIN (0) 2 (Graham, Paterson)
ALBION (1) 1 (Ross) 400

COWDENBEATH (0) 1 (Steele)
STENHOUSEMUIR (2) 2 (Hancock, Dunn) 300

EAST FIFE (1) 1 (Thomson)
QUEEN'S PARK (0) 1 (McGregor) 390

Sunday, Feb 22

Second Division

Bolton v Oldham postponed.

Fourth Division

Northampton v Hereford, Tranmere v Bradford, postponed.

Scottish Second

CLYDE (1) 1 (Brogan)
MEADOWBANK (2) 4 (Jobson 3, Sproat) 750

BIG MATCHES OF THE DAY

(Saturday, March 14th)

Arsenal v. Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM have only won four times in 50 League visits to Arsenal. Their last victory at Highbury was in October, 1957 when Bryan Orritt and Dick Neal (two) scored in a 3-1 win. Indeed, that was the last time in 15 League visits that The Blues have managed more than a single goal at Arsenal's ground.

Birmingham registered a fine 3-1 victory over The Gunners at St Andrews earlier in the season and despite their lowly position and tradition being against them, they could surprise Arsenal with a win on Saturday which would complete only their fifth League double over Arsenal in the 51 seasons they have met.

Ipswich v. Tottenham

IPSWICH have won their last three home First Division games against Spurs, and being so intent on carrying off the Championship there would appear little chance of the visitors breaking that run on Saturday.

However, don't forget that Spurs won 5-3 at White Hart Lane three months ago, their biggest score against the East Anglian club for 18 years.

Spurs last won 2-1 at Portman Road in 1975-76 when Ralph Coates and Keith Osgood (pen) got their goals, the only occasion in their last eight visits that Spurs have scored more than a single goal against Ipswich.

Man. City v. W.B.A.

IGNORING the old test matches, this will be the 100th Football League meeting between these two clubs. So far Manchester City have won 35, West Bromwich Albion 43 and 21 games have been drawn.

City have not beaten Albion in their last seven League meetings — not since completing the double over them in 1976-77.

Last season this game resulted in a 3-1 win for the Albion with Cyrille Regis and Peter Barnes (two) getting the visitors' goals. Indeed, Regis is the man City need to watch for he has scored in five of their last six League clashes.

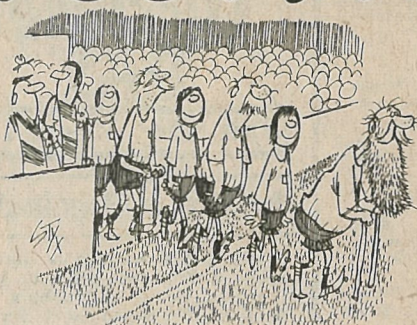
Many Albion fans still haven't forgotten that April day back in 1963 when their favourites thrashed City 5-1 at Maine Road, Ronnie Fenton, Ken Foggo (two), Clive Clark and Alec Jackson getting their goals.

Aston Villa v. Man. Utd.

THE last time Villa won the League Championship they beat Manchester United 7-1. That was way back in February, 1910 when the home inside-forward trio ran United's defence off their feet and shared the goals between them — Jim Walters (three), Walter Garrish (two) and Harry Hampton (two).

Home fans won't be expecting such a big score this Saturday but hoping their favourites get their first win over United in a run of seven games. They haven't forgotten United's 3-0 win at Villa Park only last season. That was the Manchester club's best win on this ground since October, 1951.

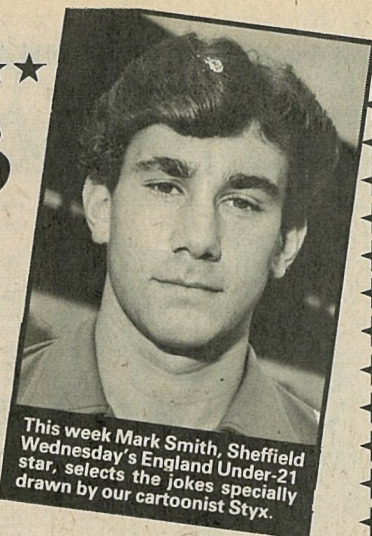
FOOTBALL FUNNIES



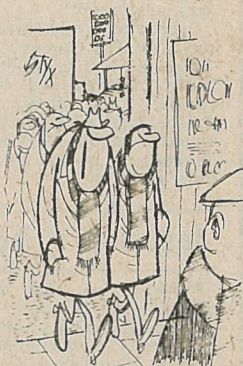
"I think he's overdoing the bit about a team of youth and experience."



"Every player gets sent-off at some time, son. Come on now, don't cry."



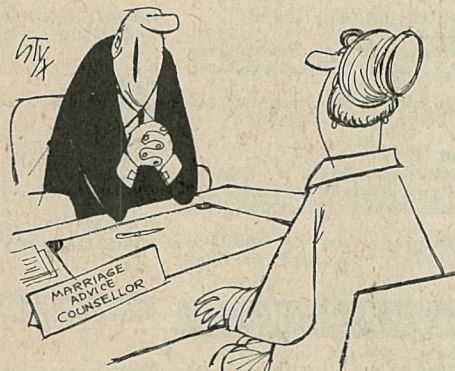
This week Mark Smith, Sheffield Wednesday's England Under-21 star, selects the jokes specially drawn by our cartoonist Styx.



"Load of rubbish. Last time they nearly scored was against Gordon Banks."



"Good news, Lucy — my Alf won't be home tonight. Let's go to bingo."



"Must drive you mad being married to someone who lives, sleeps and dreams of Arsenal. Now if it were West Ham I could understand it..."

All jokes are Styx originals and copyright to IPC Magazines Ltd. and must not be copied or reproduced without the Editor's permission.

JUBILEE TROPHY PROGRAMME

★ FREE ★

During March all orders exceeding £5 will receive a FREE copy of the Jubilee Trophy programme (worth 50p.)

PROGRAMME COLLECTOR'S OUTFIT£2
(This includes Introductory Programme Bundle, Membership Card, Hints on Collecting Programmes, Programme Folder, Swoops Bag with Label, Programme Pad, Programme, Collector's Pen, Pocket Football Calendar, League Club Map, Collector's Mug Mat, Stick-on Badge, Gummed Window Strip, Programme Collector's Sticker, Programme Marker & 27" x 18" World Cup Surprise)

BARGAIN BUNDLES

40 Big Match & Special Games Etc£5
20 Foreign Teams Programmes£5
50 80/81 English League Teams Programmes£5
35 79/80 English League Teams Programmes£3
40 78/79 English League Teams Programmes£3
45 76/77-77/78 League Teams Programmes£3
40 70/71-75/76 League Teams Programmes£3
45 76/77-79/80 Scottish Teams Programmes£3

★ BONUS TOKENS GIVEN WITH ORDERS OF £1 OR MORE ★

★ ALL PRICES LISTED INCLUDE POSTAGE CHARGES ★

★ MOST ORDERS RETURNED WITHIN A WEEK ★

Our Current Catalogue (listing several thousand different near mint condition programmes available, including Finals, Semis, Internationals, English & Scottish League teams, etc., of various seasons), is enclosed with all the above offers. It may also be obtained FREE if 15p in unused stamps (to cover postage, etc.) is sent.

STEVE EARL FOOTBALL PROGRAMMES
(SW) 5 EARSHAM STREET, BUNGAY,
SUFFOLK, ENGLAND NR35 1AH.
(Phone 0986 2621 for Wholesale Enquiries)

I enclose remittance for offers circled:—

Outfit, Big Match, Foreign, 80/81, 79/80, 78/79,
76/77-77/78, 70/71-75/76, Scottish, Catalogue Only.

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

SUPPORTERS BOMBER JACKET EXCLUSIVE TO SMALLCOMBE SPORTS

Superb BOMBER JACKET in club colours featuring TEAM NAME across back.

English made from 100% polyester tracksuit fabric to a very high standard. Features a full length zip through roll down collar, a pouch pocket front, rib trimming for the collar, cuffs and welt. Brushed on the inside for extra warmth. Machine washable and extremely hard wearing. Ideally suited for use as a tracksuit top for games and for casual wear.

26/28"	30/32"	34"	36"	38"	40/42"
S.Boys	Boys	Yths.	S.Mens	Mens	L.Mens
£6.95	£7.50	£8.75	£9.10	£9.45	£9.75

Please indicate team and size of jacket required, enclosing cheque/PO with order. Payment by B/card/Access accepted. (Please give number and specimen signature.) Telephone orders accepted on B/card/Access, telephone 0375 73416.

All items post free UK and Eire addresses.

SMALLCOMBE SPORTS CO., 14 CLARENCE ROAD, GRAYS, ESSEX, RM17 6QJ

Teams available:
CHELSEA, EVERTON,
IPSWICH—Blue Jacket
LIVERPOOL,
MAN. UTD.,
ARSENAL, FOREST—
Red Jacket
WEST BROM.,
SPURS—
Navy Jacket
WEST HAM,
ASTON
VILLA—
Maroon
Jacket



Order Form

Money back refund if not entirely satisfied.

Send team/name
Jacket(s) size(s)
colour

I enclose cheque/P.O. for £ // & Co.
or, I wish to pay by Barclaycard/Access No.

(Please give specimen signature)

Name

Address

£1.50 extra for overseas orders.

SMALLCOMBE SPORTS CO.

14 Clarence Road, Grays, Essex RM17 6QJ
Telephone orders accepted on Barclaycard/Access
Tel: Grays Thurrock (0375) 73416
Mail Order Sales. Send S.A.E. for brochure.

'THANKS-

PETER Withe has had nine clubs in as many years — but his ambition burns as brightly as ever. Which is why the burly striker is playing his football in the Midlands this season instead of on soccer-crazy Tyneside.

"The reason I left Newcastle for Aston Villa was because I wanted to win something," says Peter. "With Villa, it was simply a case of the team carrying on this season where it left off last May, on a winning streak — and I just happen to be a part of it."

Modest as Withe is about his own contribution at Villa Park, it is a fact that his partnership with Gary Shaw has helped to bring success back to a club with great traditions. And Peter is happy to be operating in the role he enjoys most.

"I'm playing a similar sort of game with Villa to the one at Newcastle. With United, I linked

up with Alan Shoulder in the same way as I do now with Gary Shaw and Tony Morley. I'm best at creating chances as well as scoring, and the nods and flick-ons I used alongside Shoulder are the type I like to think are useful to Gary.

"But I'm never content with being just a provider — I enjoy getting my full quota of goals every season, and am always disappointed if I don't."

Withe, who before joining Villa had last played First Division football with Nottingham Forest in 1978, reckons his spell with Second Division Newcastle was good preparation for his return to the top flight.

He says: "In the Second Division, defenders are more inclined to dive in at you than they are in the First — and this type of tackling makes you really sharp and alert. When I was at Newcastle, I found that there would often be a couple of players marking me, keeping me on my toes right through the 90 minutes."

to those who rejected me'

"So it was no trouble for me to settle in with Villa, especially as my team-mates include such fine players as Jimmy Rimmer, Ken McNaught and Dennis Mortimer. We've a good blend in the side, plus a strong pool of players."

It was a blow to Villa, and Withe, when he was suspended for three matches in December. In the first of that trio of games Villa were toppled from their position at the top of the First Division by Middlesbrough. But now Withe is back helping Villa cling resiliently to Championship favourites Ipswich.

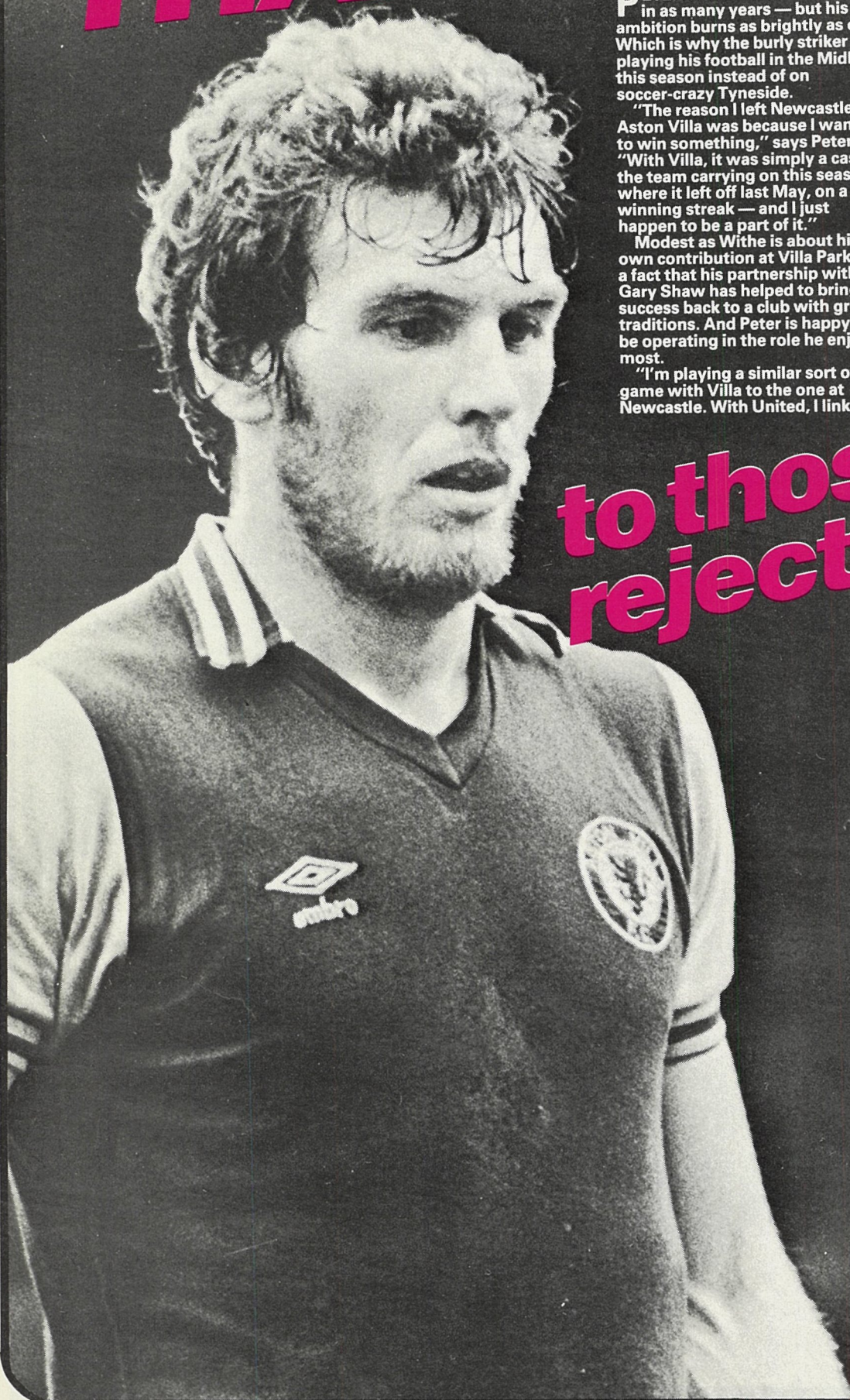
Depress

"When you've been rejected in the past by clubs like Southport and Barrow, it can depress you or motivate you," reflects Withe. "In my case the effect was to bring home to me what motivation is all about. I felt I had to strive all the harder to get where I wanted."

"And the experience proved useful to me. There are players who are at their best in the kind of atmosphere generated at Chelsea or West Ham. But if they turn out in front of a small crowd these same players can't develop any enthusiasm."

"I try to put effort into every game, and at Newcastle hope I gave value for money on the less glamorous grounds."

One man well qualified to judge the extent of Withe's commitment to a match is ex-Newcastle manager Bill McGarry. He once said: "Peter Withe wasn't just value for money — he was better than that. After I bought him from Forest I regarded him as priceless, because I couldn't replace him."



**JOHN
RICHARDS**
Wolves



SHOOT!



Norwich City striker Justin Fashanu shows his pace for England's Under-21 team against Rumania in Poesti.

MCNEILL STILL NEEDS TO SPEND

CELTIC had that old familiar Hampden Cup Final feeling. They were only 90 minutes away from the League Cup Final and were due to face Dundee United at Parkhead after drawing 1-1 away from home in the first leg.

Everything was going like clock-work. Celtic were in the driver's seat and it seemed United, the holders, would be leaving the trophy behind them after an evening's sporting fare in Glasgow.

Celtic's celebration plans were dynamited, though, as United came to Parkhead and won 3-0. In fact, with a little bit of luck, the Tannadice men might have had five or six.

United had travelled to this Semi-Final tie with all thoughts geared to attack. But there was a time not so long ago when such an attitude against a member of the Old Firm was thought to be soccer suicide.

Defence used to be the codeword. Frustrate Celtic and Rangers, get the fans on the players' backs and then try to steal a goal.

But that sort of thinking is now quite definitely a thing of the past.

Celtic had taken it on the chin. They had been on the receiving end of the sort of barrage they normally hand out to their victims and manager Billy McNeill and Company realise this is all part and parcel of today's game.

'Weaknesses'

"The Premier Division is a great leveller," he says. "Teams play each other so often that they are bound to get to know your individual strengths and weaknesses and your patterns of play."

"The sense of the big occasion rubs off on to opponents. They get used to bigger crowds and they react accordingly."

Some of Celtic's young players would have undoubtedly learned a lesson from that League Cup defeat. The Parkhead outfit lined up with Pat Bonner in goal, Mark Reid at left-back, John Weir in the midfield and Charlie Nicholas in the attack.

Last year these four players were in the reserves and could probably have wandered down busy Sauchiehall Street without being recognised.

But, today, these youngsters are forming the heart of the McNeill Machine as he builds for the future.

Celtic have been astonishingly inconsistent this season, although



that might be expected when you consider the amount of rebuilding that is going on at the moment at the home of the Scottish Cup holders.

They were only one minute away from going out of the League Cup earlier in the season when part-time Stirling Albion were leading 2-1 over the two legs. Tommy Burns was the saviour that afternoon with a last gasp goal and in extra-time Celtic rattled in another four to save their blushes.

If Celtic had gone out then it would undoubtedly have been the biggest Cup upset in Scottish soccer history since Berwick Rangers beat the other member of the Old Firm 1-0 at Sheffield in 1967.

Ironically, Celtic were set up for an action replay of that historic occasion when they were drawn against Berwick in the Third Round of the Scottish Cup, but, showing a bit more maturity, the players' nerves didn't break and they travelled back to Glasgow with a sound 2-0 victory.

Despite the failure to consistently provide the goods, there is a lot for Celtic to be optimistic about.

The play of Tommy Burns, for a start. He has probably been the most competent member of the first team since the season's kick-

off and he says: "I don't know why that should be. Consistency has never been my strong point in the past."

"I got married recently, and possibly the extra responsibility has been good for me. I just want to remain in the first team and do my best for Celtic."

The combination of cannonball Charlie Nicholas, the fans' darling, and Frank McGarvey in the attack is an ambitious one. The players already have a sound partnership and each respects the other's ability completely.

"I owe so much to Frank," says

SPECIAL ON THE

HIBS' controversial millionaire chairman Tom Hart, the man who paid more than £2,000 per game to George Best last season, has some hard and fast thoughts on Scotland's famous Old Firm.

He says frankly: "Scottish football needs Celtic and Rangers like Custer needed Indians at the battle of the Little Big Horn!"

It's a typically outrageous statement from Hart, who has never been slow to fire a broadside. In the past he has also called the Old Firm "cowards", but didn't really qualify that particular claim.

But whether Hart likes it or not, Scottish soccer desperately needs strong Celtic and

Pat Bonner can blow hot and cold in goal, but his time will surely come at club and country level. Things, then, aren't too bad at Parkhead, but are Celtic good enough to see off the challenge of Aberdeen?

At the moment The Dons appear to be a better equipped side than their Glasgow counterparts. They seem to have experience in the key positions with players such as Willie Miller, Alex McLeish, Gordon Strachan and Mark McGhee.

Celtic, though, have always relished a stern challenge. At the moment they appear to be favourites for the Championship. But anything can still happen...

ABOVE: Frank McGarvey has struck up a productive partnership with Charlie Nicholas.

RIGHT: Tommy Burns, the outstanding player at Parkhead this season.

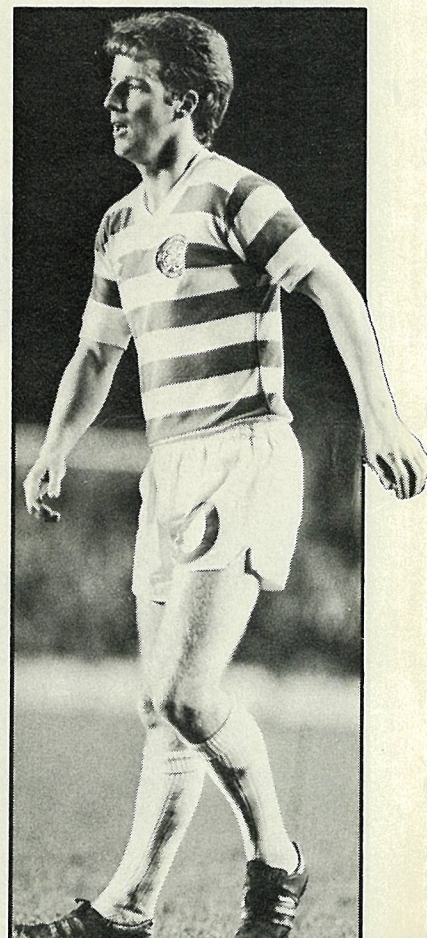
Nicholas. "He is always there giving me encouragement and advice just when I need it. He is a great man to have in your team."

McGarvey, coming good this season following a £275,000 transfer from Liverpool a year ago, says: "We work together in training and pass on some hints to one another. Charlie, though, is a natural-born scorer. A really gifted player who is going to get even better."

Davie Provan, too, can be a sparkling entertainer while Danny McGrain is using his vast experience to its fullest extent to get the best out of the young players.

Celtic, though, have had problems in the middle of their defence, where Roddie MacDonald, Tom McAdam, Mike Conroy and Roy Aitken have all been tried.

However, it looks as though manager Billy McNeill is going to have to spend before this particular problem is cleared up. There is also room for another midfield player at Parkhead... someone to take the weight off the slender shoulders of the cultured Burns.



REPORT OLD FIRM

Rangers teams. They are the best supported clubs in Scotland who bring a touch of much-needed glamour to an often grey soccer calendar.

They ruled Scottish soccer for 15 uninterrupted years before Aberdeen became the first club outside of the Old Firm to win the Championship. Now as they prepare for the rigours of The 80's, Celtic and Rangers suddenly find themselves under pressure.

This week **SHOOT** takes a look behind the scenes of Parkhead and Ibrox to see how Celtic and Rangers are coping with the challenge from Aberdeen, who intend to become THE Scottish team of the next decade.

THIS was always going to be a tough, testing season for Rangers. No one at Ibrox ever attempted to hide from that fact back in August as they prepared for the long programme ahead.

Quite simply, the previous season had been one of prolonged agony for Rangers. Their extra-time defeat from old foes Celtic in the Scottish Cup Final was typical of the way things went throughout the previous months.



They vanished up a blind alleyway in their quest to regain the Premier Division Championship and thoughts of winning the League Cup had been obliterated at an early stage when Aberdeen beat them at home and away.

When Rangers took the field against Celtic at Hampden for the Cup Final shoot-out they were left with a stark and obvious task. They had to win to put an honour in their trophy cabinet. They had to win to get into Europe.

Defeat was unthinkable, but the unthinkable happened when George McCluskey deflected Danny McGrain's long range shot into the Rangers net for the only goal of a hectic afternoon's football that, unfortunately, will always be overshadowed by the idiotic scenes of violence by so-called 'supporters' at the final whistle.

Rangers, then, knew what this season was all about. The pressure was on, and there were to be no thoughts of failure.

Manager John Greig busied himself in the transfer market, buying and selling in the best interests of the club.

In came Colin McAdam (Partick Thistle) and Jim Bett (S.K. Lokeren, of Belgium), later to be followed by old favourite Willie Johnston (Vancouver Whitecaps). The total outlay was around £370,000.

Out went Gordon Smith (Brighton), Alex MacDonald (Hearts), Kenny Watson (Partick Thistle) and Billy Urquhart (Wimbledon). Those sales brought in something in the region of £400,000.

But the 'new' Rangers have found the same old problems of last season. Inconsistency has dogged their play, individuals have gone off the boil and overall team performances have been erratic.

No one has worked harder than John Greig in vain efforts to rectify this. He doesn't deal in lame excuses when things go wrong. He looks at things positively and deserves a fair hearing when he

says: "We've got some exceptional players at Ibrox, but I haven't always been able to use them in a settled team formation."

"Injuries and suspensions hinder your thoughts all the time. It doesn't help you find a blend."

Greig said those words after his side's 5-0 Scottish Cup triumph over Airdrie at Broomfield, so there can be no talk of sour grapes.

Ironically, in that Cup-tie Greig had to do without his suspended target man Colin McAdam while

NEW RANGERS HAVE SAME OLD PROBLEMS



ABOVE: Ally Dawson was sorely missed by Rangers at the start of the season.

LEFT: Willie Johnston has added width and pace to the Rangers attack.

Derek Johnstone had just returned from suspension. Greig put Johnstone, who had been playing mainly in a back-four position, into his attack and was promptly repaid with two goals from his skipper.

John MacDonald has been a bit of an enigma this season and hasn't made the progress that might have been expected of him at this stage.

"He's a good lad," says Greig. "I've got every confidence in his ability, but he needs a rest every now and again for his own good."

Midfielder Robert Russell has also struggled to achieve consistency this season and this undoubtedly has hindered the progress of Rangers. Russell is the "brain" of the side and possibly the team has relied a bit too much on this slim youngster, especially since the departure of old warhorse Alex MacDonald to Hearts.

Jim Bett started brightly, impressed Jock Stein in his debut games against Arsenal and Spurs and did enough to be whisked into the Under-21 team without delay. But Bett's game shaded and faded, although he is now beginning to recapture the form that persuaded Greig to part with £170,000.

Colin McAdam started like a whirlwind. There was support for him to get a place in Scotland's World Cup plans but, dramatically, he too stopped producing the goods on a consistent scale.

"I haven't been properly fit since the start of the season," says McAdam, brother of Celtic's Tom. "I've been carrying an injury and it has been obvious in some games. But I'll give my all for this club."

Greig also had a problem over the left-back spot when Ally Dawson, emerging in Jock Stein's plans for the future, received a head injury in a friendly in Canada in the summer and missed the first two months of the season.

Problem

Alex Forsyth and Alex Miller were tried in the position, but it wasn't until Dawson returned that the problem ceased to exist.

In the midst of form failure, comings and goings, injuries and suspensions, lack of cohesion and possibly confidence, Rangers have tried to piece their game together.

The League race looks finished so far as they are concerned. It would be a major shock if they could overwhelm the leaders, although there will be no defeatist talk at Ibrox.

The League Cup was blown when they went out to a controversial penalty from Aberdeen's Gordon Strachan in the Quarter-Finals.

Rangers, with a magnificent multi-million reconstruction set-up taking place to make Ibrox the stadium of the future, cannot afford to miss out again. They desperately need European soccer, glamour fixtures and superstars from other countries to generate and stimulate interest.

Rangers will be back. There can be no doubt about that. But their fans will have to be patient and give the side and John Greig their complete backing.

MARK Wallington is convinced that despite all the agony and disappointment that the young Leicester City side have suffered this season, the story of their return to the First Division will have a happy ending!

"I know our results up to the end of January earmarked us as favourites for a quick return to Division Two," said Mark. "But I've never lost faith in our ability to stay up — and neither have the other lads. Now we're picking up the kind of wins I always knew we were capable of, and I'm certain we'll pull clear of trouble and finish in a respectable position."

"I was well aware of what some people started saying the minute they saw us apparently struggling.

They trotted out the old business about us going up before we were ready. Maintaining that instead of winning promotion last season, an extra year together in the Second Division would have been more beneficial to us."

"But I never agreed with that. And now that belief is about to be justified."

"Personally I've enjoyed this season probably more than any other. Obviously I haven't enjoyed losing, but I do like training with these lads, and I still get a tremendous thrill out of playing on a Saturday."

"But most of all, I've got a fantastic lift out of taking over the captaincy."

"At the beginning of the season,

I got all kinds of warnings about a goalkeeper becoming captain, and how it was bound to put extra pressure on me."

"I'll tell you, because of that, I was more determined than ever not to let the captaincy affect me."

"I failed! It has affected me! But not in the way I was warned. I've thrived on the responsibility. And without wishing to sound big-headed, I believe it's made me a far better keeper."

"Being a captain is now very important to me, because more than anything, I want to do my bit to help put this club back on the road to success."

That road looked a long way off when Leicester were humiliated in the Fourth Round of the F.A. Cup,

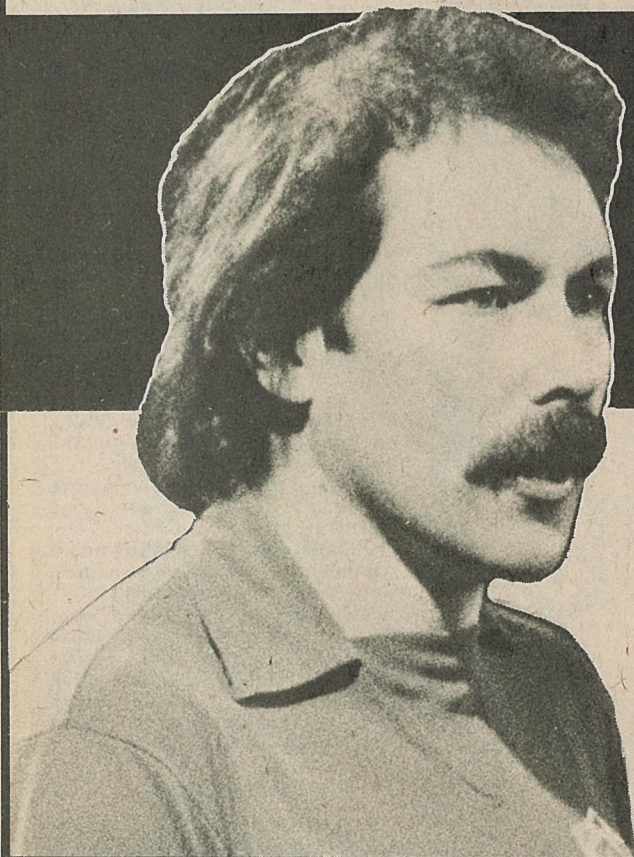
springboard to safety.

"Obviously, to a team in our position, any win is welcome," said Mark. "But to win at Anfield was beyond our wildest dreams. There can only be a handful of footballers in the League who've gone there and finished on the winning side — and we've got 11 of them."

"Mind you, we didn't go expecting a massacre. After all, we'd already beaten them at Filbert Street earlier in the season. But quite frankly, when we talked about the game we simply resolved to get our heads down, keep plugging away, trying to play football, the way we've set out to do all season."

"You can imagine the kind of

'LEICESTER WILL STAY UP' claims Wallington



crashing 3-1 in a replay at Third Division Exeter. And as if that wasn't bad enough, all they had to look forward to on the lonely ride home was a visit to mighty Liverpool at Anfield.

After such a shock, hardly the kind of convalescence trip the doctor ordered. Yet, as we all know now, Wallington and his team turned the form book upside-down by doing the impossible, winning 2-1, and ending Liverpool's incredible unbeaten run which dated back three years, and 86 League games. And they followed that up seven days later by beating Manchester United at home 1-0.

You couldn't wish for better results than those to provide a

boost that victory gave us. And our confidence was topped up even more when we followed up by beating United on our own patch.

"But those results will stand for nothing in the final outcome, unless we can build on them. Our subsequent defeat at Sunderland showed us that."

And if the worst comes to the worst, and City are relegated?

"I'd be a liar to say I hadn't thought about that," Mark said. "But I've continually refused to accept that we will go down, until it actually happens. And if it does happen, it won't be the end of the world. Far from it. We'll be back again, and all the better for what we've learned this time."



AUTHENTIC

REPLICA FOOTBALL KITS

UMBRO — ADIDAS — ADMIRAL — LE COQ

Home Teams: England — St. Etienne — Wales — N. Ireland — Wolves — Fulham — Coventry — Lincoln — Millwall — Norwich — Aberdeen — QPR — West Ham — Bris C — Notts C — Watford — Charlton — Stoke — Preston — Wrexham — Wimbledon — Clydebank — Dundee U — Orient — B'ham — Leics — Sunderland (Luton & Swansea (jersey's only)) — Plymouth — Brighton. Home or Away Teams: L'Pool — Nottm F — Man U — Chelsea — Man C — Everton — A Villa — C Palace — Celtic — Rangers — Derby — Ipswich — WBA — Arsenal — Burnley — Bolton — Soton — Newcastle — Leicester — Spurs — Birmingham — Scotland.

Mail Order prices: Home/Away or Goalie Kit 26" to 28" £10.99; 30" to 32" £11.49; 34" £13.49; 36" £13.49; 38" to 40" £13.99. Jersey only 26" to 28" £6.69; 30" to 32" £6.99; 34" £7.99; 36" £7.99; 38" to 40" £8.49.

Please add £1 extra for W.B.A.

REPLICA TRACK SUITS

L'POOL, ARSENAL, SPURS, LEICS, MAN. C., WOLVES, A. VILLA, CHELSEA, W.B.A., EVERTON, SCOTLAND, RANGERS, NEWCASTLE, CELTIC.

26" £15.99, 28" £16.50, 30" £16.99, 32" £17.99, 34" £20.99, 36" £21.99, 38"-40" £22.99.

ADIDAS TRACK SUITS

Team Colours — Red/White, Red/Blue, Sky/Navy, Royal/White, Royal/Canary, Navy/White, Black/White, Red/Black

24", 26", 28", 30", 32" £11.99; 34", 36", 38", 40", 42" £16.99.

★ CREST AVAILABLE 60p EXTRA ★

LEATHER FOOTBALLS

32 PANEL MITRE PRO-LEAGUE White/Red £10.99
32 PANEL MITRE KEVIN KEEGAN Black/White £7.99
32 PANEL Black/White, White, Red/White/Blue £5.99

PRINTED TEAM SWEAT BANDS. Major Teams available 85p + 15p postage.

PETER SHILTON GOALIE GLOVES. Boys £1.99; L. Boys £1.99; Small, £2.20; Med. or Large £2.20.
RAY CLEMENCE GOALIE GLOVES. Boys £1.89; L. Boys £1.89; Small £2.09; Med. or Large £2.09.
GOALPOST GLOVES: Similar to Peter Shilton, Boys, L. Boys £1.89; Small, Medium, or Large £1.99.

ORDER FORM (or PLAIN PAPER)

Goods Required

Size

Name & Address

P Order cheque Access or B.Card No.....

Signed.....

Payable to:

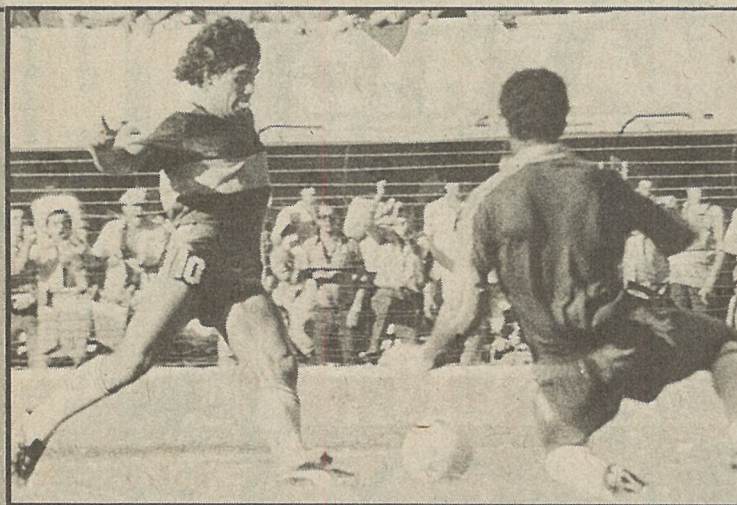
THE GOAL POST

31-35 Whitehorse Lane, London SE25 6RD.
Tel: 01-653 8620

THE arithmetic behind Diego Maradona's short move across Buenos Aires from Argentinos Juniors to Boca Juniors is enough to drive the ordinary working man (and the non-working man) to despair. The incredible fact is that Boca have paid £1,953,125 for the privilege of having the 20-year-old Argentine superstar on their team-sheet for just 16 months.

What's more, Diego will spend three of those months with the Argentine national team preparing for the 1982 World Cup Finals in Spain. Then, if they want to keep Maradona, they'll have to fork out a further £2 million!

The amazing deal was clinched only hours before the Argentine transfer deadline, after one of Boca's financial backers had pulled out, leaving the club well short of



MARADONA~

the £4 million they needed to buy Maradona outright.

So what was going to be the Sale of the Century was rapidly converted into the Loan of the Century.

No one seriously thought that Boca Juniors, a club with debts totalling over £2 million, could possibly bid for the continent's top player. But thanks to help from a group of businessmen Diego is currently wowing the crowds in the club's blue and gold shirts.

"This is a good investment," declares Boca president Martin Noel. "The club is in a delicate position, and we know that Diego will bring us good attendances, a greater number of season ticket holders and his presence will help us recover our international prestige."

Boca's investment is a massive one. £1,125,000 in cash to Argentinos Juniors. £166,000 cash

The loan of the century

to Maradona. £177,000 to the Argentina F.A. to pay off a loan made to Argentinos and £485,000 to a Buenos Aires Bank to pay off another loan. They've also given Argentinos six players (Rotonde, Brandazzo, Salinas and Santos, plus Zanabria and Bordon on loan).

And they've agreed to pay Maradona a basic salary of £335,000 a season plus 25 per cent of any profits made on exhibition matches.

If all that isn't enough, when the 1982 World Cup Finals are over Boca must decide whether they desire to — or are able to — retain the player many critics regard as

the finest in the world. If they do, they must pay Argentinos a further £1,770,829 and give Diego a cool £266,000.

"I cried when I pulled off my Argentinos shirt for the last time," admits Diego. "But a professional footballer's career is made up of a number of different stages, and this is just one of them."

We can only hope that amid all the mind-boggling arithmetic, 20-year-old Diego Armando Maradona doesn't neglect the freshness, inventiveness and breath-taking skills that in five years have taken him right to the top of the professional tree.

Not wanting to be outdone, Boca's traditional rivals in the Argentine capital, River Plate, are poised to make a £2m bid for Mario Kempes. The striker's name was amongst those registered with the Argentine F.A. for 1981/82 season, which could mean a return for Kempes, struggling to find his best form with Valencia.

● Leopoldo Luque has left River Plate for Unión de Santa Fé. The fee: £50,000.

More trouble for Schuster

WEST GERMAN ace Bernd Schuster (below) is still having a torrid time at Barcelona, and is having much the same sort of problems that Kevin Keegan ran into during his first season in Hamburg.

Some team members have been reluctant to accept the preferential treatment given to Schuster, and their resentment has been translated into some fierce tackling during training matches.

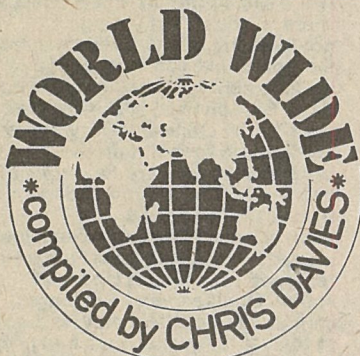
In the latest incident, Bernd walked out of the stadium after a clash with international defender 'Tarzan' Migueli — their second clash in a matter of weeks.



"WIN A FREE Ticket for the Match of the Year." That was the headline in a recent advertising campaign in Spain. The Match of the Year was the top of the table clash between Atlético Madrid and Barcelona, and to qualify for your free ticket you had to put at least £500 in a special savings account at a certain bank!



GREECE's national team manager, Alketas Panagoulis (above), has recently undergone a fourth operation for the removal of growths in his throat. Doctors state that the problems are caused by the amount of shouting he does from the trainer's bench!



AT THE halfway mark in the Italian First Division, AS Roma were in top place for the first time since 1942!

ANOTHER ITALIAN SCANDAL

INTER MILAN beat Academia Tahuichi of Bolivia in the Final of the world junior Under-13's Championship in Buenos Aires, watched by an incredible 70,000 fans in the River Plate stadium. The game ended 1-1 and the Italians won on penalties.

Sadly, the sordid side of soccer was not absent even at this level. It was revealed that one of the Inter players — Massimo Pellegrini — was 15. Not only that, he was registered under a false name: Massimo Ottolenghi. Pellegrini scored seven goals in the tournament.

Inter directors were forced to hand over the trophy to the Bolivian club. They admitted they knew what was happening and the Italian paper *Gazzetta dello Sport* commented: "It is yet another humiliation for our football."

Milan soccer appears to be in a sick way, as last year neighbours AC Milan were relegated to Division Two following the infamous bribes scandal.

News flashes

- Dynamo Dresden are the team of the East German police, and their squad was at Schönefeld Airport in Berlin waiting to fly out to a game when three of their young international stars were all arrested and taken into custody. The trio are Gerd Weber, 24, with more than 40 caps, and Peter Kotte and Mathias Muller.
- Paul Breitner, now starring in midfield for Bayern Munich, has received a letter from the German FA Disciplinary Committee asking him to

explain his words to a referee: "With you it's always the same. You seem to have something against us." They must be thick if they cannot understand that!

● Servette (Geneva) are hoping to arrange a musical football evening at their ground, on May 17th. First Servette v Watford then completing a double-header a concert by Elton John.

● Der Kicker held a poll of readers to find the 'coach of the year' in West Germany. 21.4 per cent voted for Werner Feldkamp (Kaiserslautern), 16 per cent for Pal Csernai

(Bayern) and 15 per cent for Udo Lattek (Borussia Dortmund).

● Georg Kessler, manager of Dutch League leaders AZ '67, has been offered and signed a new five-year contract. At the moment AZ are still unbeaten in the Dutch First Division.

● Dino Zoff, the 39-year-old goalkeeper of Juventus, has just broken a club record for 255 consecutive appearances. The previous record, 254, was held by Anselmo Giorcello who played in the 30's. Before the 255, Zoff also played 143 games for Naples in succession.

ENGLAND's World Cup opponents Switzerland have appointed a new manager following the resignation of Leon Walker — desperately disappointed by the thrashings the Swiss received on their South American tour. The new man is 48-year-old Paul Wolfisberg, who's been in charge of Lucerne.

SUNDERLAND fans may be interested to hear that Claudio Marangoni scored his first goal for his new club, Huracan, in a friendly against the Hungarian national team that's battling against England for a World Cup place. The Argentine midfielder seems to be happier back in his native Buenos Aires than he was at Roker.

COMPENSATION FOR HAGAN

MANAGER-COACH of Sporting Lisbon (Champions), former English international inside-forward Jimmy Hagan, has just received a nice little bonus. He took his former Lisbon club, Benfica, to court over his dismissal in 1973 when, for Eusebio's testimonial match, he dropped three regular first teamers Diamantino, Toni and Humberto. The Benfica chairman Borges Coutinho was furious and sacked Hagan on the spot. Now the court has ruled and, saying that it was Hagan's task to pick the team, have awarded him more than £15,000 compensation.

SUPPOSING . . . just supposing . . . every player in the Football League was put up for transfer. Which players would make up the most expensive team? Not of fees already paid, but fees that the clubs would demand — and pay — for the players. You could argue all night, and still disagree, but here's our choice of

THE TEAM



connection together at the back. Anderson can be devastating on the overlap and has scored some sensational goals that any striker would be proud of.

RUSSELL OSMAN

WE have no hesitation in selecting Osman as our centre-half; or to predict he'll be England's number five in the 1982 World Cup Finals (if they qualify). The 22-year-old Ipswich stopper is having a marvellous season and his partnership with Terry Butcher must be the best in the League. Indeed, it is possible that the Ipswich pair could team-up for England in the not too distant future. Commanding in the air, Osman reads the game like a veteran and for a big feller is surprisingly quick on the deck. Dave Watson has served England magnificently. Now, it's Osman's turn.

DAVID O'LEARY

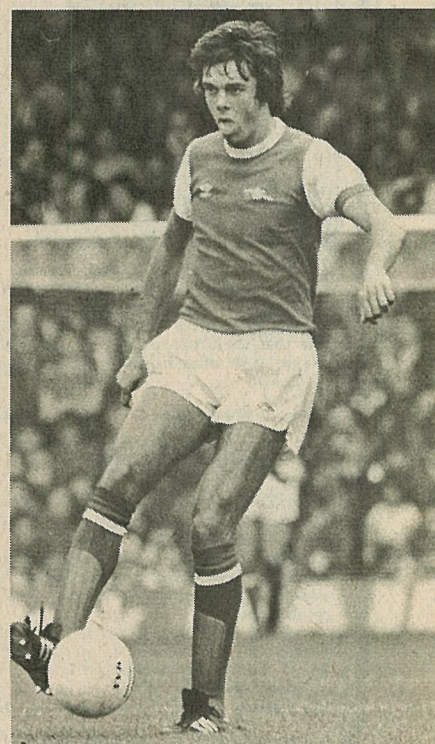
A DIFFICULT choice, with Terry Butcher and Alan Hansen in contention, but the Arsenal defender oozes class. He makes everything seem so easy and always appears to have time, the hallmark of every great player. Injuries have restricted O'Leary's (below) appearances this season, but there can be no doubt that apart from possibly Franz Beckenbauer and Ruud Krol, the Republic of Ireland star is the most accomplished sweeper in Europe.

PETER SHILTON

IT'S a sad comment, but the fact is there is a dearth of young goalkeeping talent. Even the great Gordon Banks can't see a ready replacement for Ray Clemence and Peter Shilton (left) in the England team. John Lukic and Gary Bailey are fighting to maintain the progress they showed a couple of years ago. Ron Greenwood even turned to the untried, inexperienced Perry Digweed, just signed by Brighton from Fulham's reserves, for a recent Under-21 squad. Goalkeepers have longer careers than outfield players. Look at the value Arsenal have had from Pat Jennings. With this in mind, we feel someone, somewhere would still be prepared to pay £500,000 for Peter Shilton — but they probably wouldn't for any of the younger 'keepers.

VIV ANDERSON

NOT too many right-backs around. Viv Anderson got the nod over Spurs' Chris Hughton by a whisker, although both are from the same attacking mould. The Forest star became the first black player to win a full England cap and if he hasn't established himself at that level yet, it's because Ron Greenwood has preferred to keep the Liverpool



MONEY COULDN'T BUY

KENNY SANSOM

HE was valued at £1 million earlier this season and since his transfer from Crystal Palace, Sansom has become an even better player. Derek Statham and Arthur Albiston are also valuable young left-backs, but Sansom must be the pick. In the European Championship Finals last summer he was the best left-back on view and bar injuries should hold his position in the England team for ten years. He's as strong as an ox, incredibly fast and good in the air, despite a lack of inches.



GLENN HODDLE

COULD be leaving Spurs for the Continent at the end of the season; if he does, it'll be interesting to see if he is appreciated even more in West Germany or Italy. Glenn (above) has all the skill and, for a midfielder, weighs in with his share of goals. There are those who still doubt his overall contribution, saying he fades during matches. Perhaps the slower pace of the Continental game will make Hoddle into the international star he is at present struggling to be.



BRYAN ROBSON

HIS West Brom manager has no doubt that Robson's best role is in midfield, although he could find himself playing in the back-four for England. Robson (above) is a modern day Paul Madeley, the type of player every manager dreams of, effective in several positions. His emergence in the England team will make it hard for Ray Wilkins to reclaim his anchor-man job in England's midfield, and Robson, although he doesn't have Wilkins' finesse, scores more goals than the Manchester United man.

GORDON COWANS

HE admitted recently that his form for Villa has been disappointing, but it's only a temporary lapse as Cowans is one of the most exciting young midfielders around. The greyhound-owning star has all the qualities of a midfielder man: he can win the ball, use it intelligently and can score goals. He gets through a tremendous amount of work and is not afraid to try the unexpected. Andy Gray has constantly praised Cowans in his column and if Gordon continues to work hard at his game there is no reason why he shouldn't progress into the full England team.

TREVOR FRANCIS

NOT too long ago there were question marks over Francis' career. The Achilles tendon has healed perfectly and if anything the Forest star is an even better player than he was a year ago. No forward in England has the blistering pace of the England striker; he was our first £1 million player and Brian Clough would make a few bob should he ever sell Francis.

FRANK STAPLETON

WHAT! No Kenny Dalglish? While the Liverpool superstar is the most valued forward in Britain, at 30 he simply can't command the highest transfer fee. Stapleton is six years his junior and it's a fact of soccer life that youth will always cost more than experience. Stapleton has scored regularly since he

became an Arsenal regular, whether he's been alongside John Radford, Malcolm Macdonald or Alan Sunderland. Don Howe thinks he's the best in Europe — and that's where he may be going at the end of the season.

GARY SHAW

FAVOURITE to be named Young Player of the Year by his fellow professionals this Sunday, the Aston Villa striker will also be favourite for SHOOT's Most Exciting Player of the Year award in a few weeks. Such has been his impact this season that he could well add full international honours to the England Under-21 cap he already has. Shaw is the type of player to pull in the fans. Quick, alert, brave, he tries things others don't even think about. When you see Villa and Shaw at their best, you wonder why the League chairmen needed to alter the rules to improve the game.



Trevor Francis takes on Arsenal's Pat Jennings.

TAKE A BREAK—IT'S Quiz Time

PAST STARS...

1. Unfortunately, he became a managerial casualty this season. As a player, he starred for Aberdeen, Brighton, Leicester and Southend. He took Wigan Athletic into the Football League. Who is he?

2. He gained promotion honours with Mansfield, where he helped them go up from Division Four and Three. He then starred in Norwich and Ipswich promotion sides. He became player-manager of Mansfield before taking over at Posh in February, 1979. Can you name him?

3. This former Wales international player holds the League appearances record for Wrexham. He also played for Arsenal. Currently boss of a Second Division club... who is he?

4. He started his managerial career with Brentford before moving to a Second Division club. Played most of his football at Griffin Park. He also had spells with Sheffield United, Reading and Queens Park Rangers (as player-coach). Can you identify him?

...AND PRESENT

1. Nottingham Forest's Martin O'Neill was transferred recently to which First Division club for around £300,000.

2. Did Gary Shaw, David Hodgson or Steve McMahon (pictured) score England Under-21's only goal in their 1-0 win against the Republic of Ireland at Anfield last month?

3. Scotland gained a valuable 1-0 win against Israel in Tel Aviv in a World Cup qualifying game. The



winner was scored by Kenny Dalglish in the first or second-half?

4. Which current England international — Ray Wilkins, Kevin Keegan or Tony Woodcock — scored for the Rest of Europe against Italy in a friendly to raise money for the Earthquake victims?

TRUE or FALSE?

1. Scottish Premier Division club Morton are managed by Benny Rooney.

2. Luton Town's Tony Grealish is a full Northern Ireland international player.

3. Second Division Grimsby Town have never played in the First Division.

4. St Johnstone were Scottish League Cup runners-up in the 1969-70 season?

GO FOR THE DOUBLE ANSWERS

ACROSS:- (1) Man. (3) Hilaire. (6) Talbot. (9) Wark. (11) Carl Harris. (13) Left. (15) Reid. (16) Alan Hansen. (18) Heel. (20) Enmesh. (23) Francis. (24) One.

DOWN:- (1) Malmö. (2) Neil. (4) Era. (5) Wall. (7) Bramall. (8) Terrace. (9) West Ham. (10) Knees. (11) Car. (12) Raith. (14) Ton. (17) Nest. (19) Elf. (21) Niche. (22) Mayo.

ANSWERS:

First in 1903. 4. True.
1. False — they played in the
he is a Republic of Ireland interna-
TRUE OR FALSE. 1. True. 2. False —
Second-half. 4. Woodcock.
PRESENT. 1. Norwich. 2. Shaw. 3.
John Docherty of Cambridge.
Wrexham boss Arfon Griffiths. 4.
Morris of Peterborough. 3.
PAST STARS. 1. Ian McNeill. 2. Peter

LEARN FROM THE STARS

BOBBY CHARLTON'S EASTER RESIDENTIAL SOCCER SCHOOL

(With the approval of The Football Association)

MANCHESTER

Enjoy the best football instruction from top coaches and players. Join the boys who had so much fun in 1980. Learn new skills and improve your game. Two separate 5-day courses at Easter.

- Open to boys age 10 to 16
- 1st class accommodation
- Coaching films • 5-a-side matches
- Super prizes • Match visits
- Recommendations to league clubs

Charlton Soccer Schools, Antwerp House, Birch Lane, Manchester M13 ONW.

in association with

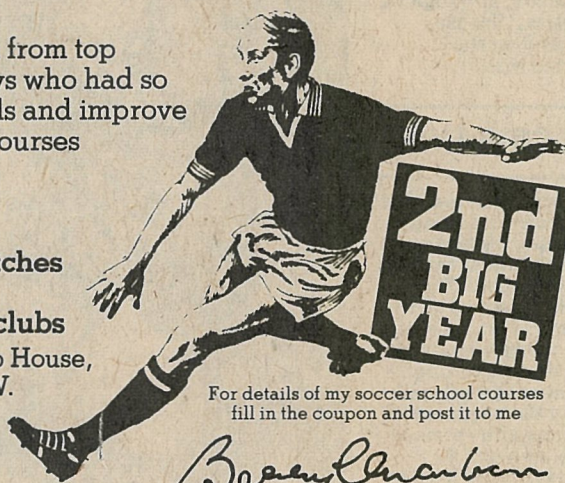
SHARP
ELECTRONICS (UK) LIMITED

To Bobby Charlton CBE, Charlton Soccer Schools, Antwerp House, Birch Lane, Manchester M13 ONW.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SH



For details of my soccer school courses fill in the coupon and post it to me

Bobby Charlton

BOYS 7 to 14 years.

Keen on playing Soccer — and/or Cricket? Anxious to be coached well in small groups so that you really improve your skill ready to surprise the school P.E. teacher next season? To live/play with 70 other talented boys for a week or more in the summer holidays concentrating on one or both of these sports but enjoying other holiday fun! Our coaching Centre is in Yorkshire but we have 7 other different types of Holiday Centres in the South of England. It's quite expensive but so is anything good. Full colour brochure free: dial (0747-83) 230 to ask, or write: B.C.H., Moorlands, East Knoyle, Salisbury, Wilts.

ENGLAND SOCCER SQUAD EXCLUSIVE! PERSONALLY SIGNED KEY RINGS

KEVIN KEEGAN
RAY CLEMENCE
BRYAN ROBSON
GLENN HODDLE

OR
ANY OF YOUR
FAVOURITE
ENGLAND STARS
A COLLECTORS
ITEM

TREVOR BROOKING
PAUL MARINER
TREVOR FRANCIS
STEVE COPPELL

A photograph of your favourite England star personally signed and mounted in a superb perspex key ring in a protective cover

Price Only 85p which includes postage & package.
Allow 28 days for delivery
Pan Products Ltd. • 15 Adam St. Burnham-on-Sea • Somerset

Cambridge are graduating fast

THE remarkable progress Cambridge United have made in the past few years is best measured by the selling activity in the club's shop.

Sports bags bearing the illustrious names of Tottenham, Arsenal, Manchester United and Liverpool once adorned the shelves. Now, they are piled high with black and amber bags bearing the Second Division club's colours.

The transition has been masterminded by John Docherty, ambitious manager of the third youngest professional club in the Football League, and accomplished by one of the most improved teams in the country.

CLUB SPOTLIGHT

"This is not an area known for its football, but we are beginning to win support from soccer lovers in the locality who are becoming more and more aware of the club," explains John.

Cambridge's new-found reputation and status is simply told. In 1976-77 they languished in the Fourth Division, winning promotion as Champions on the strength of a goalscoring spree from Alan Biley and Tom Finney.

In 1977-78 they took the Third Division by storm, leaping to another promotion at the end of the season.

Their progress since then has, understandably, slowed. Twelfth in the table at the end of the first season, eighth at the end of the second, and this season they have flirted with the top ten for most of the winter.

"My aim is to get us into the top ten," says John Docherty, whose young side forced itself to the forefront of the national game this season by destroying Wolves over two legs of the League Cup and demoralising title-chasing Aston

Villa in the next round before suffering a narrow defeat by Coventry City at home after holding them to a 1-1 draw at Highfield Road.

How can anyone ignore the potential of a Second Division side beating two such strong First Division clubs?

John Docherty concedes that Cambridge possess few of the giant-killing traits of Colchester, Altrincham and Yeovil but emphasises that they are in the process of gaining a pedigree that is becoming the envy of many other clubs.

"It's difficult when you're a club lacking history (they turned professional in 1946). Our future lies in the progressive thinking of a board of directors, management and playing squad geared to bringing success to an area short on soccer tradition.

"The progress we have made in the last five years is remarkable. One of our greatest achievements has been to remain solvent when so many clubs are mortgaged to the hilt."

The most they have ever spent was £140,000 on securing striker George Reilly from Northampton Town in November, 1979. Three months later their bank manager breathed a sigh of relief when they accrued £350,000 from the sale of Alan Biley to Derby County.

Statesmen

Docherty maintains a low profile in the transfer market, preferring to bring on youngsters and buy only if he has sold. His first task on arrival from Brentford was to part with Cambridge's elder statesmen. Bill Garner, Mick Leach, John Cozens, Peter Graham, Trevor Howard, Dave Stringer and Sammy Morgan were all cast out.

Now, the line-up revolves around the talents of Steve Spriggs, Reilly, Derrick Christie, Steve Fallon, Floyd Streete, Lindsay Smith, Dave Donaldson and Tom Finney.

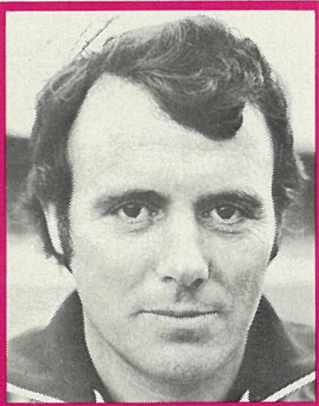
"The squad is much stronger than it was on my arrival," insists John.

One of the happiest moments of the Cambridge manager's reign occurred a few weeks ago when he received a letter from the English Schools Football Association informing him that striker Andrew Sinton had been chosen for the Under-15 squad to play a series of schoolboy internationals this Spring.

Andrew's potential has excited Cambridge for months. He is on their books, but more important, he represents a breakthrough in which Cambridge can show the outside world that they, too, can encourage youngsters.

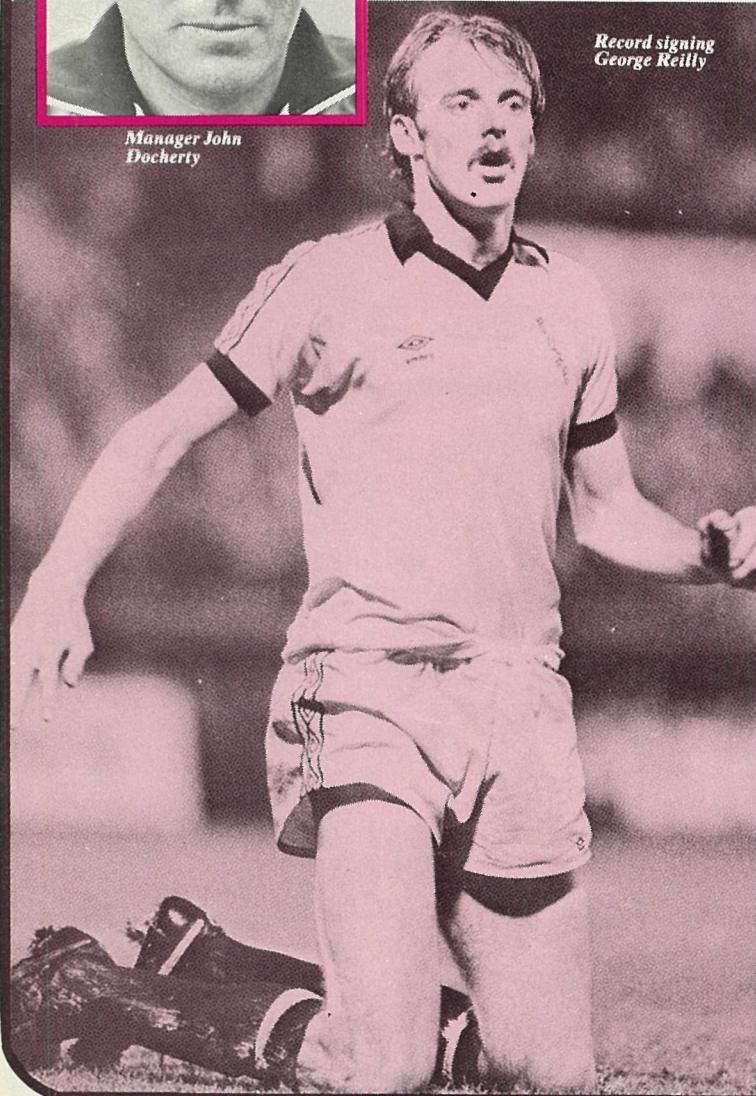
It is never easy for a club, short on history, to bring on young players. They prefer to go to the big clubs.

Andrew Sinton's confidence in Cambridge is a measure of the respectability they now enjoy since graduation to the big-time.



Manager John Docherty

Record signing George Reilly



**NEXT WEEK...
NEXT WEEK...**

Aston Villa's England Under-21 star Gary Shaw joins SHOOT — don't miss his first column when he names the team-mate who has helped boost his career... reveals the reason for Villa's Championship-chasing form... and what he thinks about his boss, iron-man Ron Saunders.

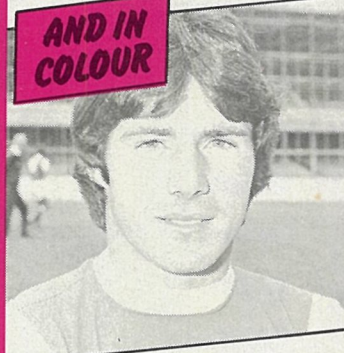
PREVIEWS

World Cup-ties — Scotland v Northern Ireland; Turkey v Wales and Belgium v Republic of Ireland. Also England v Spain and a reunion for Trevor Francis and Tony Woodcock.

Plus...

Miracle man John Wark. And Liverpool boss Bob Paisley admits he was wrong about Villa.

AND IN COLOUR



Wales and Orient team-groups + action from Scotland's recent World Cup victory in Israel + Kevin Ratcliffe (Everton) + Focus on Republic of Ireland and Arsenal star Frank Stapleton (above).

Also...

the chance to meet Justin Fashanu, spend two fantastic days in London and win a SodaStream fizzy drinks maker in another unbeatable competition.

All this and much, much more in next week's SHOOT — Britain's biggest selling soccer magazine!

CAMBRIDGE UTD.

BACK ROW (left to right): Doug Evans, Jamie Murray, Roger Gibbins, Ian Buckley, Dave Donohoe, Graham Watson.
MIDDLE ROW: George Heilly, Floyd Streete, Richard Key, Steve Fallon, Malcolm Webster, Nigel Smith, Martin Goldsmith.
FRONT ROW: Steve Spriggs, Tommy O'Neill, Tom Finney, Dave Stringer, Graham Watson, Derrick Christie.



SHOOT!